

RECREATION

Formerly THE PLAYGROUND

— June 1934 —

Like Spring—It's in the Air!

By Erna D. Bunke

County Grounds for Recreation

By Henry S. Curtis, Ph. D.

When You Plan Your Summer Program

Seeing Nature in Glacier National Park

By Carroll Lane Fenton

Our Children's Vacation—Shall It Be Camping?

By Charles W. Carson

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RECREATION

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Using Leisure For Government

YOUNGSTERS come to playgrounds, athletic fields, community centers with increasing leisure on their hands. Older men come looking about them for something to do to have a good time. Many come to a recreation center because they want to spend part of their time doing things with other people—preferably with people whom they like. Often they care more for the comradeship in having an excuse for being together than they do for the particular activity. Men like to be with other men. Not only is their satisfaction in activities—athletic, musical, dramatic—in the field of craftsmanship, nature, or in worship, or in the common study of some problem. In various forms of service always for many there has been pleasure in the comradeship and in the activities themselves. Men like to feel that they count whether it be in helping to put out a fire, in digging out after a blizzard, or in serving as volunteer leaders of boys' and girls' groups.

In times past many have wished they had the leisure for such activities, have envied those who could so help. Now—soon—no one need deny his longing to be a part of his government, his neighborhood in a real way—because of lack of time. There will be a distribution of free time that will mean leisure for all. Men can do that for which they have secretly longed.

What is done in leisure time in government service will not in any large part be related to the local recreation system—though there are large opportunities for government service in volunteer recreation leadership. Rather recreation leaders as they think of their programs, as they relate these programs to schools, libraries, churches and other groups, will remember that many obtain great pleasure and happiness in government and community service and that time enough ought to be free for such service; that the community recreation center can create an atmosphere favorable to volunteer government service; that the community center can help in developing leadership which will make government service more attractive and more popular.

What recreation leaders have in the back of their minds is often just as important as what is in front. One of the ideas which should always be in that background is the importance of government service.

We are all a part of the government. Many of us can in the new era serve on local government committees and be active in securing proper consideration of government questions from the point of view of all the people.

New leisure means a new deepening of human activity. Volunteer work for one's local, state or national government, though not classed as recreation, has great recreation and service values, gives great satisfaction in the present and in retrospect—even when one's efforts bring meager results. Recreation leaders can help greatly, even if somewhat indirectly, in encouraging the use of much leisure for government service.

HOWARD BRAUCHER.

June, 1934

Coming—Vacation Days!



There are countless delights ahead for the children whom June releases from school and who are going to the country or to camp! Long rides in jolting farm wagons, overnight camping trips, sleeping under the sky, pets to play with, trees to climb, swimming holes to splash in—these are a few of the joys awaiting thousands of children!



And for those who must spend the summer at home there are the playgrounds with all they have to offer in good times, companionship, opportunity to make things, to take part in games, go on hikes and do the thousand and one things dear to the hearts of all children.

When You Plan Your Summer Program

Your community will benefit from knowing what some other cities are doing on their summer playgrounds

"CAN YOU suggest anything new for our playground program?"

This is a question frequently asked. You will, perhaps, find some suggestions which will help you answer the question for your community in the programs a number of cities conducted in the summer of 1933.

Shows and Exhibits

There were last year many of the ever-popular shows such as doll shows, pet shows and exhibits of various kinds. In Dalton, Massachusetts, for example, there were 197 dolls entered in the show held at the Community House. Points were given in a number of classifications—for the oldest doll, ugliest, largest, smallest, best baby girl doll, best baby boy doll, best nationality doll, best home-made, best family group, best doll wardrobe, and best animal and character doll.

Announcements. Announcements for shows of this kind should be made as interesting as possible. Here are a few suggestions from the Reading Department of Public Playgrounds and Recreation for giving publicity to doll and pet shows.

Make posters attractive with illustrations cut out of magazines and papers. How much more interesting is this announcement: "How old is your doll? Bring it to the doll show next Thursday at 3:00 P. M.," than this one: "Doll Show—Thursday—3:00 P. M."

One of the first steps in preparing for a doll or pet show is adequate publicity through notices. Make your show posters as appealing and interesting as possible.

Ask parents of children, members of the Association or other interested adults to act as judges for the various classifications. Distribute them evenly so that one set of judges

Just at this time when plans are under way for the playground season, may we call your attention to some publications which should help you in planning the program. There is the booklet "Conduct of Playgrounds" (\$.25) and its companion piece "88 Successful Play Activities" (\$.60). Every leader should have these two hand books.

does not have more classifications than another set.

An announcement for a pet show might read as follows:

"Come, bring bird, beast, fowl, fish, reptile, insect or pest
And awards will be given to the very best."

"Come, folks, grown and small
The playground pet show is for all."

And in a pet show, the department suggests, awards may be made for the following:

1. Largest animal
2. Smallest animal
3. Most beautiful dog
4. Homliest dog
5. Cutest cat
6. Most beautiful pet bird
7. Oldest pet
8. Youngest pet
9. Best aquarium
10. Largest reptile (alligators, snakes)
11. Best rabbit
12. Largest two legged pet
13. Smallest two legged pet
14. Largest four legged pet
15. Smallest four legged pet
16. Most unique pet
17. Largest family of pets
18. Dog with most spots

Exhibits. Exhibits of handcraft are still in order. The park playgrounds of Oklahoma City last August held a handcraft exhibit at the fair grounds. Each playground selected fifteen of its best pieces of work for the exhibit, and a committee of judges passed on the points of merit in each of the following group classes:

Required

Bird houses	Sailboats	Oilcloth	Cork
Kites	Vases	Clay	Soap carving
		Tin can articles	Inner tube articles
		Wooden toys	Embroidery
		Book ends	Doll dresses
		Door stops	

Optional

Leather craft	Paper flowers
Bead work	Toy furniture
Weaving	Lanterns
Pen or pencil drawing	Puppets
Wax moulding	Cardboard work

First, second and third place ribbons were awarded to the

three best articles from each playground entered. In addition, awards were given to the three best articles in each of the twenty-five groups or classes of the city-wide exhibit.

If a program in the nature of a demonstration is held in connection with exhibits, it adds interest. Covina, California, held such an exhibit at its playground fair and in connection with it a program was offered, including a pantomime, a demonstration of wrestling, a pet show, and after a picnic supper a grand finale in the form of a lantern fete.

And They're Still Making Things!

To tell of all the handcraft projects which last summer intrigued the children of America's playgrounds would be an impossible task. But here is a special note from Lancaster.

As this city is universally known as a leading linoleum manufacturing center, the Recreation and Playground Association has felt it appropriate to specialize in handcraft articles made from this material. This plan has been facilitated by

gifts from the Armstrong Linoleum and Cork Company of a generous amount of linoleum and cork scraps, most of it cut in squares running from 5 inches to 12 and 15 inches. The children were taught by the supervisors to wield their tools skilfully—for the most part ordinary knives were used—and by the end of the season linoleum far outnumbered other handcraft projects, being popular with both boys and girls.

Some excellent pictures were made of ships, birds, animals, various scenes and designs, and clever doorstops, bookends and calendars were designed. A number of especially attractive pictures were carved from white linoleum, one of a Japanese girl painted in black. A portrait of George Washington cut in cork, the shadows brought out by the use of black paint, made a particularly effective picture. A number of inlays were also done remarkably well. The playground awards were made at the office with a linoleum block designed by the handcraft instructor. The seal on the swimming certificates was made in the same way. At the time of the handcraft exhibit an entire window was devoted to the linoleum articles,



Photo by Hans Bittner, Berlin, Germany

and the ingenuity and artistic workmanship shown were widely commended.

Contests. There is always the fun of doing something interesting with the thing you have made, and so contests will ever be a universally popular sport.

Sixty boats were entered in the second annual regatta conducted by the playground children of Denver, Colorado. Boats were divided into five classes according to size as follows: Class A, boats measuring 36" and up; Class B, 24" to 36"; Class C, 12" to 24"; Class D, boats under 12", and senior riggers. Awards were made on the basis of workmanship and the appearance of the boats, some of which were made on the summer playground, some at school, and others at home.

Dalton's "Feast of Lanterns" provided the children with an opportunity to display the lanterns they had made, and they carried them lighted in the procession which attracted a large number of spectators. An Oriental touch was given the event by a large Buddha figure decorated with paper cherry blossoms. Awards were made for the most original lantern, the handsomest, the most unique and the funniest. Awards were also made for costumes.

They Like to Read

Before their budgets were drastically cut, a number of public libraries cooperated with recreation departments by conducting miniature branch libraries at the playgrounds. The Public Library of Salt Lake City did this last summer in connection with every play center which was not near a public library branch, and reading hours were scheduled each day.

The Hamilton, Ontario, library is one of those which, because of lack of funds, was obliged to discontinue this service except for one playground. But this did not mean that the children were without books, for a plan was devised whereby they might build their own library. The fee for joining this new library group was one book or five cents. An entry in the day book of a member of the staff of the Playground and Recreation Commission shows how successfully the plan was worked out.

"At our playground all but two helped by bringing books. The total number of books in the library was 127. Books were issued weekly on Thursdays and checked off on sheets listing the name of the books, the name and address of the owner and a blank space for successive borrow-

ers. We drew a line through the name when the book was returned." It was found that asking the children to contribute their own books in order to borrow others acted as a splendid check on keeping the books in good condition and insured their prompt return. All books were returned to their owners at the end of the season.

Drama and Music—Always With Us

Almost three hundred playground play makers last summer wrote and produced their own plays in the parks of Louisville, Kentucky, complete with home-made scenery and costumes. Ladies and beggars of the world's oldest stories walked and talked again in the second annual one act play contest held on each playground with three district winners repeating their plays in the new Play Makers' Theater at Central Park. Highland Park won first place with "The Great Bell of Peking," a presentation of a Chinese folk tale. The play was repeated Mayor's night at the state fair.

Louisville's playgrounds enjoyed music, too, and community singing last summer reverted to the old custom of caroling. On playgrounds where no piano was available, singers visited around the neighborhood serenading the community in return for the use of a piano. People of all ages sang popular airs and folk songs. Seven hundred and forty-seven individuals took part in a singing bee.

Much interest was shown in the playground drama tournament conducted by the Austin, Texas, City Recreation Department. There were three classifications—intermediate, ten through fourteen years; junior, fifteen through seventeen years, and senior, eighteen years and over. One hundred and twenty-two participants took part and there were approximately 1,645 spectators. The city library gave cordial cooperation in the project, and many of the plays were presented in the library's auditorium.

Wabash, Indiana, also had its tournament, conducted in one of the parks. Twelve groups participated in a series of one act plays which ran for four nights, Sunday night being given over to the presentation of religious plays. The tournament was very successful and large audiences attended.

The Public Recreation Commission of Cincinnati believes heartily in music and drama as playground activities. Last summer there were nine playground groups in instrumental music made up of children of the average age of fourteen who



Courtesy Children's Theater, Palo Alto, California

met for the most part in school buildings. The Junior League aided by giving a one act play from time to time at the traveling theater. The League also gave a performance of a children's play, tickets for which were distributed through the Commission.

Baseball and Athletic Sports

Last summer more than a thousand boys from eleven to twenty-one years of age joined the Pontiac, Michigan, Junior Baseball Association and played the national game with great enthusiasm throughout the season. The boys were organized into sixty teams divided into three classifications—Class B, under twenty-one years; Class C, under seventeen years, and Class D, under fourteen years. Each team played once a week in its regular league schedule, but it practiced several times a week and played games with other teams not included in the schedule. Unemployed fathers, older brothers, former baseball players and business men coached the teams, and many an adult confessed to renewing his youth through the activity. The leagues were financed by a donation of 50 cents from each player in the senior Class A

amateur league, together with receipts from several exhibition games played by the senior league.

President Will Harridge of the American League provided an incentive for participation by presenting three baseballs autographed by all of the Star American team which played at the World's Fair in Chicago. The balls were awarded at the annual banquet of the three winning teams by Detroit's famous member of the team.

The *Pontiac Daily Press* cooperated in arousing interest by conducting a two day baseball school at the State Hospital Field. John Kobs, Michigan State College coach, and Charlie Gehringer, Detroit's "tiger" second baseman, were in charge of the school. There were classes in the fundamentals of the games, such as throwing, batting, bunting, base running and fielding. More than a thousand boys sat for an hour in the bleachers while the fundamentals were being demonstrated. Bats, balls and coaching equipment were provided by the Recreation Division of Pontiac. The players furnished their own clubs and such uniforms as they had. The majority of the boys played in overalls.

Neighborhood baseball leagues in all parts of the city were organized by the Park Department of New Haven. Under this plan, teams in various districts were enabled to engage in contests in the parks in their own neighborhoods. At the close of the regular schedule there was a play off for the title of city champion in the several age groups. This method proved very popular, the number of teams increasing from 47 in 1932 to 98 in 1933. Participants increased from 800 in 1932 to 1,395 in 1933. The same method has proved popular used in connection with soft ball, horseshoes and other activities.

Nor were the girls neglected in the athletic program. There were 32 teams of girls and women playing playground ball in Cincinnati—twice the number playing a year ago. These teams were organized on a neighborhood basis with a volunteer official.

Outings and Camping

Have you thought of conducting a "day camp" for stay-at-homes?

For a period of nine weeks beginning July 3rd, the Recreation Commission of Mount Vernon, New York, with the cooperation of the Boys' Club which gave the use of its South Side Branch, conducted a home day camp for boys. Under the leadership of a camp instructor the boys took part in basketball, wrestling, indoor baseball and other floor games. These indoor activities were for the most part conducted on days when the weather was inclement. In favorable weather the boys went on nature hikes, enjoyed camp

fires, swimming at nearby beaches, and outdoor sports of all kinds. They also visited industrial plants. The total attendance was 1,710. This was an emergency leisure-time activity made possible by the use of state aid funds with the cooperation of the Board of Education.

Last summer for the fourth consecutive year the children of Wheeling, West Virginia, enjoyed outings to Oglebay Park through the cooperation of the park authorities and the City Recreation Bureau. At 10:00 o'clock each morning, for five days a week for ten weeks, a bus left the city playgrounds carrying its load of forty children twelve miles away to the 750 acres of nature's varied beauty that is Oglebay Park. Here the children stayed until 3:45 under the leadership of two members of the city playground staff. After a welcome and an opening ceremony the children scattered to various activities—baseball, volley ball, folk dancing, group games or a nature hike, followed by a period of less active games. Then came lunch which each child brought, supplemented by milk provided by the Oglebay Institute Committee which raises the money for the bus. After lunch and a rest the children waded in the brook, rode ponies, hunted treasures, played hare and hounds, toasted marshmallows, or enjoyed some other special event. The day ended around the camp fire with stories, stunts and nature games. Children from seven to ten years of age came one week and those from eleven to fourteen the next.

Swimming holds an important place on the summer program, and trips to nearby beaches and swimming pools should be encouraged.

For two days each week a group of mothers with children under six were



Courtesy Girl Scouts, Inc.

There are many grown-ups who still thrill at the word "circus." What wonder, then, that children are so happy at the prospect of a circus of their own on the playground!

given a day's vacation at the park with transportation and lunch furnished. A total of 639 mothers from families referred by relief agencies enjoyed a day of rest or of outdoor activities as they chose.

For \$2.50, which covered the cost of provisions, boys and girls at Columbus enjoyed a five day vacation at the camp maintained by the Division of Public Recreation at a location on the river about twelve miles out of the city. The camp accommodated about 80 boys and girls. Equipment consists of six cabins, a swimming pool, a council ring, and a building containing a kitchen and dining room.

Community Nights for Young and Old

During the depression community nights have come to mean much to the adults who have had little money to spend for recreation.

For six years the Recreation Department of Austin, Texas, has conducted community nights on the playground. During these years interest has grown and participation increased. The query now is, "What are *we* going to put on for community night this week?" instead of the former question, "What are *you* putting on for community night this week?" At the end of the summer one community continued the program once a week, later changing to two nights a week.

Community night takes many forms. No special program is asked of the playground leaders, but they are urged to see to it that the community takes part in some interesting activities such as musicals, doll shows, dancing, game nights, picnics, picture shows, minstrels, square dances, exhibits, and one act plays. Many unique forms of entertainment have resulted. Community singing is almost universally a part of the program, and several singing clubs have been organized on the playgrounds. Square dancing is one of most popular activities of community night. Not only peo-



Courtesy Detroit Recreation Department

ple from the community around the playground but residents from all parts of Austin attend. In the beginning only the older adults knew the steps, but so popular has this form of dancing become that boys and girls on the playgrounds take part in every dance.

The city government of Richmond, Indiana, with the help of the Palladium Publishing Corporation presented during the past summer a series of recreational events which did much to keep morale at a high level. As the first step the city government improved the natural amphitheater in Miller Park to provide a spacious field for the playing of soft ball games under flood lights and for entertainments featuring local talent. The season opened with a huge minstrel show with 125 people in the cast, and with "Singing Sam," well known radio favorite and resident of Richmond, as the leading attraction. The show was presented four nights and a total of 50,000 people were entertained free of charge.

During the remainder of the season soft ball games were played and stage entertainments given twice and sometimes three times a week. People in neighboring towns were extended the privilege of using the stage facilities and a modern amplification system to present their own programs. Seven such Sunday night entertainments were decidedly successful, attracting thousands of the park for each entertainment. Two barn dances were given and an old-time orchestra, veteran callers and capable quadrille dancers volunteered

their services to make this old-fashioned program successful. For these entertainments 16,000 people were in the amphiheater each night. On one occasion seven young people from Vienna gave a program. Dressed in their native costumes, they were immensely popular with the great audience. The cost to the city was unusually low because of the cooperation given by the Palladium Publishing Corporation in giving the services of one of its employees, Robert R. Reid, head of the Public Relations Department, to assist the city and the Civic Amphitheater Commission in arranging the program.

During the operation of the amphitheater records of the Police Department showed that juvenile misdemeanors were practically non-existent. The result for the season was that thousands with leisure time were able to participate in the activities and to enjoy the entertainment offered by others at no cost whatsoever.

That Closing Festival!

The festival is still very much in evidence as a way of climaxing the season's activity, though the circus ranks high in popularity. Last summer the Brooklyn Park Department held its eighteenth annual playground festival in which 1,500 children of thirty park playgrounds took part in a series of twelve different dances. All the costumes were made by the children who were transported to the park by interested residents of the neighborhood in which the playgrounds were located.

Three thousand girls participated in the "Wishing Fairy Ring," the sixteenth annual pageant presented by the Detroit Recreation Department and financed last year by the *Detroit News*. During the weeks preceding the pageant these girls made models for stage settings, crepe paper costumes, and rehearsed their songs and dances. Because of its reduced budget, the department depended largely on volunteers who gave efficient aid in directing the dancing, handcraft and other arts entering into the pageant.

A circus was the closing event for the children of the Boston park playgrounds. And it was a gala day for them, for they were transported in busses to and from the Common where the circus was staged and where a supper was served circus style.

Very often the season's final event is based on the theme which has motivated the program. "Homes of Other Lands," was the theme on which

each of the Denver playgrounds last summer built its program through games, story-telling and other activities. Each playground selected a foreign country, studied the habits and customs of its people and depicted them in the scene which it displayed. Almost thirty countries were represented.

Some Practical Considerations

"How are we going to finance the program?" "What about facilities?" These are practical questions which must be answered if there is to be any program. And in these days when municipal funds are sometimes difficult to secure the problem of finances looms large.

Securing Funds. When it became evident that no funds would be forthcoming to support the summer playgrounds of Springfield, Ohio, Chief of Police Abeles called together some of his friends in City Hall and in the business circles of the city and told them that the Playground Association had disbanded and there would be no recreation for children and young people during the summer except a little sand lot baseball sponsored by the American Legion. He made an earnest plea that something be done. At a Dutch luncheon meeting which followed at a local hotel where the group heard Chief Abeles' plea, \$1,500 was subscribed. Later an additional \$500 was pledged by the Parent-Teacher Association, and eight playgrounds were conducted in charge of ten leaders.

Because of the reduced appropriation for playgrounds in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, it became necessary early last summer to announce the closing of three playgrounds conducted by the Playground and Recreation Commission. Immediately a demand for the opening of these grounds came from the public. The Hamilton Olympic Club, the Chamber of Commerce and special neighborhood committees began at once to raise the thousand dollars required to open the grounds. The amount was secured and turned over to the Playground Commission. The grounds were opened under leadership and the attendance last summer was the largest ever recorded on these playgrounds.

Lacking the usual appropriation from the Board of Education, the playgrounds of Battle Creek, Michigan, last summer were financed by a series of weekly entertainments presented under the auspices of a citizens' committee. The entertainments included two band concerts, two movie shows, a water carnival, a boxing and wrestling

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An Important Need and Opportunity

THIS MONTH over 700,000 young men and women will be graduated from our high schools. About 50 per

cent of them will be added to the hundreds of thousands of young people already in our communities who, without school, college or job, are in great need of having interesting things to do that will keep alert the priceless powers of mind and body, the social vision, and the loves and faiths that twelve years of school effort were aimed to develop. Now is the time for every leader in community recreation to attend especially to the question of how provision can best be made for a happy carry-over in community life of such school activities as can be regarded as being in the field of recreation. Of these, music is in many places among the foremost in the number of students participating in it and in the degree of skill and the scope of expression that have been developed in it. Anyone who has observed the achievements of a good high school chorus, orchestra, band or smaller group, in social living and individual happiness as well as in musical expressiveness and beauty, knows how tragically wasteful it is to let these achievements count for little or nothing in the life outside of schools.

How the Recreation Leader May Help

No matter how restricted the recreation leader may be as to funds for community musical activities or as to his or his Board's interest in music itself, now is the time for him to do whatever he can to help bring about the provision needed. He of all people knows most fully the need. He has the insight and the vision without which such values for living are likely to perish in a community, and it is up to him to start something. Whether he can or cannot, through his own department's funds or his own abilities, provide for one or more choruses, orchestras, bands or smaller groups well suited to the graduates, he can help in such ways as the following:

1. Visit the high schools with the school supervisor of music for the purposes of finding out just what is being done in music there and of talking

By **AUGUSTUS D. ZANZIG**
National Recreation Association

with the supervisor about what might be done to make the most of it in the life outside the schools.

2. This visit with the music supervisor might well lead to a conference with musical students who are going to graduate, as to what opportunities for continued amateur musical activity they would *like* to have after they have left school. To make this conference really effective, a list should be at hand of the choirs, choruses, glee clubs, orchestras, bands and smaller groups that already exist in the churches, recreation centers, clubs, and in the community at large, with information as to the activities of each one, when and where it meets, and what, if any, special skills, fees or other conditions are required for entrance into it. The students might be invited to attend a rehearsal or concert of each group open to them as graduates, for their enjoyment and further information. Perhaps there is now no group suited to them, either as to age or as to musical standards. For graduates of many a modern high school musical organization the typical choral or instrumental group of middle-aged folk would be to them as a fumbling baseball team would be to a well-trained player or as ping pong would be to a lad who knows the keen fun of very good tennis. New musical organizations may be needed in the community, and the recreation leader can be a strong influence toward starting them, even if he has no knowledge of music and no money to be spent on music.

3. Such a conference as has just been described might well be held with former graduates of the schools, with or without the coming graduates.

4. Bring about a meeting of music leaders and other persons whose influence might count in fitting the community for survival of the musical interests and skills developed in the schools the various social agencies, the churches and the parent teacher associations or other groups of home-makers, as well as the school and community musical organizations, should, if feasible, be represented at the meeting. The fine possibilities and

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That Ever Present Problem—Leadership!

KALAMAZOO, Michigan, is one of the cities which last summer successfully met the problem of play leadership through the use of volunteers. It

became apparent during the winter that the budget of the Recreation Department would be severely cut. It was announced that instead of a paid trained and responsible staff consisting of a man and a woman at each playground, only one director would be possible. In view of the fact that there would be more children spending the summer in the city than ever before this situation presented a real problem.

An interested school principal and an active Parent Teacher Association made plans well in advance to meet the emergency. The situation was considered at a meeting of the Child Study group in March and later by the executive committee of the Parent Teacher Association. The May meeting of the association took the form of a panel discussion of a possible recreation program for the district. The members of the panel were the city superintendent of recreation, the supervisor of physical education of the schools, the visiting teacher, the president of the Parent Teacher Council, the principal of the school, a minister in the neighborhood, a parent and a student. The meeting adopted the plan outlined and authorized a committee to complete details and put it in operation. Further plans involved the sending of questionnaires to each of the associations regarding summer activities, a study by high school boys of available vacant lots and play spaces in the district, and the circularizing of former students who had been leaders in their school activities and who were home or at college as to their availability for volunteer service. A study was made of the plans and resources of other community recreation organizations. The result of the summer's work was a



greatly increased number of constructive recreation activities in the district of the Washington Junior School playground, selected because in the past it

had drawn such large numbers of children from the immediate neighborhood. Activities included a day camp for girls once a week under Girl Scout leadership, a hiking club for boys, kodak clubs, nature study and dramatic clubs, first aid and sewing classes. Many of these activities were held at homes, but the enrollment was at the playground and all groups for hikes or camping met at the grounds. Twice a week the children from nine to fourteen had an hour of story-telling, rhythms and songs in the basement room at a branch library. Three churches in the neighborhood conducted morning sessions of Vacation Bible Schools. On four lots the department placed croquet sets for which a nearby resident guaranteed care and which were open for the use of the neighbors. Volunteers helped the playground director in many of the regular activities on the grounds and the whole movement has resulted in greater attendance, more widespread activities, and more general appreciation of recreation values than ever before.

About twenty volunteers gave regular service averaging two two-hour periods a week. Many more helped from time to time. A Parent Teacher Association committee, acting in close touch with the playground director, took full responsibility. The chairman of the committee was a principal of the school teaching staff. She assigned the volunteers who reported to her. Substitutes were furnished if a regular volunteer was unable to attend. The chairman made reports to the playground

Do you have the problem of providing for playground leadership on reduced funds? This article will tell you how some cities met the situation last summer.

director and did the necessary joint planning. The plan has brought into use material resources as well as volunteer leadership that would never have been discovered by the Recreation Department working alone and that has helped this district meet an emergency most successfully.

Other Cities Report Success

Last summer, as in the summer of 1932, New Bedford, Massachusetts, conducted its playgrounds chiefly under the leadership of volunteers supervised by two experienced paid workers. Nine centers were in operation, one more than in 1932. An average of 3,000 children and young people ranging in age from one to twenty years attended each day, and more than 250 men and women served as volunteer leaders. A fund of between \$900 and \$1,000 was raised to finance the work. Where in 1932 many of the volunteers served only two and a half days a week, last year they worked five. Many worked through the entire season missing scarcely a day. Nine of the leaders were mothers, others were college and normal school students and teachers home for the summer, high school groups and a number of employed people who gave their leisure hours. Chief of Police McLeod was one of the most ardent supporters of the playgrounds. He did much to secure contributions to the fund collected through the *Standard-Times* and *Mercury*. Many individuals and organizations cooperated in making the playground season a very successful one.

Each of the five members of the Chicopee (Massachusetts) Park and Recreation Commission took active charge in a supervisory capacity of a district and assumed responsibility for the summer's activities. There was one paid worker on each playground with several college men serving as volunteers. The season was most successful with nine playgrounds open all summer and two smaller ones for little children established.

Last summer the Board of Education of Buffalo, New York, maintained thirty-four playgrounds. The staff consisted of one director, the head of the Department of Physical Education, four supervisors each of whom was responsible for eight playgrounds and the swimming pools in a particular section of the city, a handcraft supervisor, and a supply manager. In addition, sixty-eight playground directors, thirty-five men and thirty-three women, were selected from the "white collar" group of unemployed. These directors were assigned to the Board of Education by the State Education Department and a three

day institute was held. The State Board of Education also supplied thirty-five workers known as "playground watchmen" one of whom was placed on each playground. Their duties consisted of protecting the school property from damage, keeping the playground free from rubbish, resurfacing grounds where necessary, filling in horseshoe pitching pits, painting playground equipment, opening and locking the gate, and assisting the play leader wherever possible. This service was found to be very helpful.

With the appropriation for the recreation centers conducted by the Park Commissioners of Hartford, Connecticut, reduced about 20 per cent, and that for "playgrounds not on park property" decreased about 75 per cent, the Park Commissioners faced a serious situation last year. Through the cooperation of the Community Chest which provided the department with forty workers, and the Welfare Department which furnished thirty additional workers, it was possible to continue the work on the playgrounds. A special effort was made to open the usual number of playgrounds and to continue approximately the same activities. Every section of the city was served by the twenty-five playgrounds in operation. At the larger playgrounds a program was offered for adults and in some instances groups were organized which continued their activities throughout the year.

In spite of the most careful planning the Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Recreation and Playground Association could do, its curtailed budget could be made to cover only a six weeks full-time program. Realizing that a volunteer staff alone could not handle the situation, the association sent a letter to all applicants for positions asking if they would give back the equivalent of one week a month during the summer season. The acceptance of this plan was so generous that the entire staff for the season virtually became part-time volunteers giving one week free service each month, thus allowing the playgrounds to operate eight weeks on a six weeks' budget. This meant in effect the cutting of salaries by 25 per cent. It made no appreciable difference in the type of service rendered, but from the standpoint of the community it was understood that the entire staff including the supervisory force voluntarily gave two weeks of their time in order that the city playgrounds might operate for at least two months.

(Continued on page 163)

Our Children's Vacation— Shall It Be Camping?

How camping helps to make leisure
time more interesting to children.

By CHARLES W. CARSON

A MILLION boys and girls will attend organized camps this summer in the United States and Canada. The figure sounds large until we take into account the millions who will not go. If camping is good for a million boys and girls, why not for a much larger number?

One reason is obvious. Thousands of people who would like to send their children to camp cannot afford the fees. Another reason is that many parents have not been convinced that there are unique values for their children in a camping experience. Any camp director or counselor who has called on parents in order to interest them in camp has heard such responses as these: "Oh, we have a cottage at the lake, John doesn't need to go to camp. He has all the advantages without the added expense." Or, "we're taking an automobile trip for our vacation and Tom is going with us."

In justice to their children every parent of boys or girls between the ages of nine and seventeen should investigate camps. Circumstances may not permit attendance, but to investigate is an obligation. If you are a parent, and have an open mind, here is some evidence.

Advantages of Camping

Camp offers to both parents and children a vacation away from one another. Constant contact in the home leads to easy irritation and capricious dispositions. A two months' respite restores perspective and creates a home atmosphere conducive to calm judgment and intelligent affection. Furthermore, if it be true that achieving independence of the home is one of the two major adjust-

This year organized camping will celebrate its fiftieth anniversary. The municipal recreation movement with its growing participation in camping and increasing appreciation of its values, will join with private groups in wishing for the camping movement continued success and even greater usefulness. The article presented here was prepared by the director of Camp Lawrence Cory, the boys' camp of the Rochester Y. M. C. A.

ments of adolescence, a few weeks at camp provides an excellent beginning. Here, under the guidance of trained counselors, boys and girls learn to face a new environment and to make adjustments which otherwise may be postponed until college days.

Parents must recognize, however, that they play a large part in the success or failure of a camping experience. Limiting the number of visitors' days is not merely a convenience to the camp staff; it is an essential factor in the camper's adjustment. Homesick campers are usually less a problem than child-sick parents. When parents play their part intelligently, camp offers boys and girls the opportunity, perhaps for the first time, to stand on their own feet.

A second advantage of camping is the unusual opportunity to learn the arts of leisure. Few places are as well equipped as a good camp to facilitate the learning of ways to make leisure time interesting and a source of real pleasure, and this is a matter of discovering interests and developing skills. For children with a limited background of experience, discovering interests is a process of experimentation. They need to be exposed to a wide variety of choices and to be guided in selection. Camp programs of two decades ago were generally planned in advance and highly regimented. In the swing away from a regimented program some camps have gone to an opposite extreme which results only in confusion. Excellence is not measured by the length of the list of possible activities, but by the method with which the activity is developed.

Our present purpose, however, is not to discuss methods, but to point out values. For example, a boy in camp was attracted by the "What Is It?" contest and found his way to the nature study cabin. Although he came to identify a leaf, his curiosity was aroused by an aquarium filled with all manner of wiggling things. An alert counselor asked if he would like to look at a specimen of the aquarium water under a microscope. From that day on this camper spent a large share of his time at the nature study cabin. Before leaving camp he had persuaded his parents to buy him a microscope and had constructed his own aquarium. A new world was opened to him.

Discovering Interests

One evening a group of campers sat on the shore just after sunset watching the changing lights on the hills across the lake. As the light faded a star began to twinkle in the western sky. A lively curiosity prompted a camper to ask the name of the star. After waiting for several guesses a counsellor identified the star and then began to ask questions about the stars. The result was a group of star gazers who were given permission to explore the heavens on clear nights after "taps."

Stimulated only by the vague desire "to make something," a boy wandered into the handicraft building. In the printing shop he saw some boys digging gouges out of pieces of linoleum with small curved tools. "Would you like to try it?" asked the instructor. After a few trials the boy

began work on a linoleum block for the camp paper. Later he did a Christmas card and a book plate. Before he left camp he had learned how to construct a hand press which would make it possible to continue his new interest at home. It is quite possible to learn how to use a microscope, to identify stars, and to make linoleum block prints at home or in school. The unique advantage of the camp environment is the unusual opportunity it offers to discover and develop spontaneous interests.

The opportunity to gain experience in working cooperatively on group enterprises is as significant as the development of individual interests. To adapt ingenuity and new ideas to group needs and a group objective is excellent training in citizenship. Individual skills are essential, but most life situations call for team play. The following examples from a camp experience illustrate the point:

Group Enterprises

A group of ten and eleven year old campers were playing on the lake shore. Someone suggested, "Let's play pirate." "Aw, gee, you can't play pirate without a ship." "How about building one?" With excitement at a high pitch they ran to the counselor who supervised craft work. The counselor thought it was a good idea, and the planning began.

The first task was to find materials, because no funds were available to buy them. A pile of old tent floors was discovered in which there was



It's impossible to play pirate without a ship but on the other hand there's no reason why boys shouldn't make one. And the campers at Lawrence Cory discovered they could!

enough lumber for the body of the ship. Stability, however, would be lacking. A bright young pirate suggested oil drums. Six drums were secured from an oil station in town. A sapling was located which would do for a mast, and an old tent fly decorated with a gruesome skull and crossbones supplied the sail. It took five weeks of resourceful, patient, and persistent work to build the ship, and the launching was a great event. Ten lusty pirates, each properly attired with a kerchief around his head and a black patch over one eye, pulled strenuously on the oars for an hour against a light wind (oil drums are not built like racing yachts). Finally the sail was hoisted and the pirate ship, steered by an old oar, sailed to the dock.

A similar experience was the building of the new council circle. The old council circle was in a perfectly obvious location, a few yards in front of the semi-circle of cabins. Across a field by the side of a brook was a spot which was a favorite rendezvous for campers. Bounded by the sloping banks leading down to the brook, sheltered by trees and bushes was a level spot about fifteen yards across. One evening as a cabin group was cooking their own supper over an open fire, a camper remarked casually, "This would be a great place for the council circle." The idea was greeted with enthusiasm and the next day the project was started.

Underbrush had to be cleared and logs hauled and fashioned for seats. The circle was outlined with stones and a path leading to it was widened.

After days of hard work the new council circle was ready. A fire was built in the old circle. When it had burned to embers, coals were scooped up and carried with due ceremony to start the first fire in the new circle.

Building the pirate ship and constructing the new council circle were not mere stunts. The campers learned how to plan, organize, carry out and evaluate a group project.

Helping Him to Make Adjustments

Closely related to experience in working on group enterprises is learning to make the adjustments to other people and to new environments essential to happy living. Few other experiences have the opportunities in this connection which are found in camp. A child who spends eight weeks in camp is there for more hours, not counting the hours of sleep, than he is in school during an entire year. Furthermore, the variety of circumstances requiring adjustment to other people is greater than in school.

The father of a camper said to a camp director as he enrolled his boy, "Until I went to college at the age of seventeen, I had never been away from home longer than over night. For a whole year I was utterly miserable because I didn't know how to get along with people. When my boy goes to college I want him to be more experienced than I was." Unfortunately, all parents are not as farsighted as this father. In fact, it is frequently the case that the child who needs camp most has parents who do not or will not recognize the need.

And this was true, too, when it came to building a new council ring. It meant days of hard work but it taught the campers how to plan, organize and complete a project.



Consider the case of Franklin, an only child. The following observations are from the counselor's behavior record:

"Franklin's mother accompanied him to camp and made his bed while he stood by. I offered to assist, but the mother desired to do it herself. When she had finished, she reported that the boy was ill and should not eat anything all day except malted milk which he was to get from the nurse at two o'clock and six o'clock.

"During the afternoon Franklin made several remarks of this sort, 'I wish I was to be here only two weeks instead of four. Camp's all right, but I wish I was home. My mother takes me to the lake every afternoon. Do we have movies at camp? My mother takes me to the movies every Saturday and Sunday.'"

Making adjustments to new people and new situations was difficult for Franklin because a doting mother had catered to his every whim and shielded him from many hardships. Before the camp period closed Franklin's father came to take him home. An uncle had died and Franklin's mother needed him!

Franklin's case illustrates the need; other cases are better examples of success. A visiting teacher persuaded Sam's parents to send him to camp. He had exhibited a variety of anti-social behavior at school and his home situation complicated his difficulties. During his first season at camp he ran away four times. He was negligent in performing his camp duties and sulky when he was checked up. Careful attention to his needs, however, resulted in a fairly satisfactory experience and at the end of the season he reported that he had enjoyed camp. Profiting by the first year he came to camp a second season and his relationships with other campers were greatly improved. A third season found him accepting his share of responsibility readily and taking his place in a tent group without friction. Adequate records were an important factor in Sam's case. A summary of his case came from the visiting teacher when he was first enrolled. His counselor kept a running record of his behavior in camp which was passed on to the visiting teacher at the end of the season. Progress in his case is not a matter for conjecture; the record speaks for itself.

Arthur was a shy boy who came to camp with no skills and no confidence in himself. He could not play baseball, he could not row a boat, he could not swim. Some of his difficulties were traceable to lack of opportunity; many of them

were results of his timidity. His first achievement was learning to swim. When he was graduated from the non-swimmers' to the beginners' class, his chin came up and his chest began to expand. Soap carving, however, proved to be his real forte. When his carving of an elephant was exhibited on visitor's day, Arthur was, for one of the first times in his life, really proud of himself. During the early days at camp any camper could make Arthur cringe by a harsh word or a pugnacious gesture. At the end of the season he could no longer be easily intimidated. From a potential recessive personality type he developed into a normal, happy boy.

Learning how to become independent, learning to make leisure time contribute to happy living, learning how to plan and carry out group projects, and learning how to get along with people are important factors in character education. The leadership, equipment, and program of the summer camp are organized to provide these opportunities.

For many years camp literature has quoted the statement of a famous educator, "The summer camp is America's greatest contribution to the field of education." When education is conceived, not as the formalized process of acquiring information, but as a continuous undertaking of developing skills, attaining knowledge, and creating attitudes, this statement assumes new significance. It may turn out to have been a discerning prophecy.

"Probably the greatest social contribution which the camp vacation can make to any group of campers is an experience of successful cooperative life in a group diverse in interests, skills, abilities, but all enjoying common activities. The participation of all in the affairs of a day means more than any play given, any concert produced, any swimming meet, any discussion group. To realize that everyone has something to give and that the best life is possible for all when every person has opportunity to make his unique contribution, is to have learned a cardinal principle of the new social order. The process, not the final performance, is the chief concern of the camp that would lead a group into social living. The habits and attitudes built up in such a group contribute to the making of a more desirable social whole and the camp unit itself is an organic part of that whole."—*Abbie Graham in The Girls' Camp.*

Volunteer Recreation Leadership

As evaluated by a member of
the physical education profession

WITH THE close of the summer playground season, the matter of volunteer leadership again comes up for discussion and evaluation.

A year ago, with municipal budgets depleted and many playgrounds without leadership or partially closed for lack of funds, the experiment of volunteer leadership became a common one. In many cases, experienced teachers served without pay rather than be idle when this important social service was being neglected, and also because it was felt advisable to carry on in this way temporarily rather than to see the program lost. While such professional loyalty is to be commended, it is a question whether municipalities should be encouraged to shirk their duty in this manner.

There is another type of volunteer leadership, however, which gives promise of growing into a permanent part of the playground and community recreation plan of administration. It is one which does not dispense with the regular staff of play leaders but which supplements their work. It adds invaluable services not apt to be found in the regular program. From this standpoint, there is every reason to believe that there is a permanent place for volunteer leadership in the special activity phase of the summer recreation program, for example, in music, handicraft, story telling, nature trips, gardening, art work, and educational trips to printing houses, telephone plants, automobile shops, etc.

Usually where the volunteer plan has been tried it has been preceded by a number of meetings of influential citizens who are strong backers of an educational as well as recreational program of summer activities. By having such a committee or advisory council made up of such civic-minded men and women, and from many walks of life, excellent publicity is usually forthcoming. These people carry weight in their respective communities and as a result of their presence, the news-

It will be interesting for recreation workers to have the point of view of some one outside the immediate recreation field on the subject of the use of volunteers on the playgrounds. We are therefore presenting an editorial from the September issue of *The Journal of Health and Physical Education*.

papers (especially if the local editor is an interested member of the committee) are very apt to sponsor the work with enthusiasm.

In addition to this possibility of extra interest and enthusiasm on the part of influential community groups and the helpful backing of the newspapers, there are other possibilities in the volunteer plan. It gives opportunities to draw upon other recreational facilities previously unavailable for the playground children. For example, one of the members of the community committee may be a college or industrial leader who will offer the use of a swimming pool on limited occasions, or a wealthy citizen may open up private tennis courts at certain hours for playground use under playground supervision. Again, in conjunction with the volunteer service, short-term recreation training courses are usually offered. These serve an educational purpose in enlightening the community on modern recreational needs.

The volunteer plan has additional merit in tying up the playground services with other social service agencies of the community such as the parent-teacher groups, service clubs, churches, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, Y. M. C. A., Y. W. C. A., etc. Representatives from these groups are apt to be found on the advisory council. Leaders in these organizations have a chance to enlarge upon the sphere of their activities. The playground director is the coordinating director of this enlarged and cooperative program. In a sense this program is using many ideas from Scouting and "Y" work but in an enlarged way and with children that might otherwise not be reached.

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Seeing Nature in Glacier National Park

By

CARROLL LANE FENTON

**We offer you the rewards
of the hiker who travels
along the trail on foot.**

SEVENTY or eighty people sit about a crackling campfire. Two of their number sing a duet whose verses hold more joy than sense; a third recites the woes of a Swedish settler and his broncho team. A man in olive-green uniform speaks on wild flowers and trees, and leads the entire groups in favorite glee club songs. Closing, he invites them to hike:

"Tomorrow we'll go to Dawson Pass, a round trip of fourteen miles. On the trail will be forests of lodgepole and fir, a pretty lake among moraines, and a glacier almost too small to be true. Higher, we'll find stunted alpine plants, while the Pass itself will show fossil beds formed in a very ancient sea. There will be magnificent views, too; things to thrill you photographers and others who like to draw. We'll start from the bridge at a quarter to eight; come — and don't forget your lunch!"

This is a typical campfire program, led by a ranger naturalist. He helps visitors enjoy

Dr. Fenton is a research worker, lecturer and writer who for eighteen years has hunted for extinct animals and lost landscapes. To him hiking and camping are never ending delights.



themselves, urges the timid to ride and walk. Without teaching he tells them the story of nature, adding to the store of knowledge with which they view beautiful scenes. In spare moments, he helps pitch tents, offers hints on where to fish, or tells where herds of elk may be found by hikers who go quietly.

The region seconds his varied efforts. Though less famous than the Yellowstone, Glacier National Park peculiarly appeals to those who like to live out of doors, and to temper enjoyment with learning. Its trails are good and rarely steep; unobtrusive roads

and boats care for those who can neither walk nor ride. It offers much in three or four days—and it welcomes those who will stay for weeks, or the entire summer. Hotels and simpler cabins wait, while for those to whom vacation means life in a tent there are well equipped motor camps in which real crowds are unknown. Though not the unspoiled, primitive wild, they are never the compact, dusty blocks found in more populous national parks.

Books and essays have been based on the pleasures of riding through Glacier Park: something also should be said of the ease and even greater rewards of hiking. For whatever the timid or hasty may say, one may "do" every major horse trail on foot without incurring discomfort or danger—and he will see and learn more by the way than can those who only ride.

Let us take the item of comfort first. There are three large hotels in the Park and eight cabin groups or chalets. All welcome hikers, who also may stay overnight at the four more remote tent camps maintained chiefly for saddle horse parties. A total, then, of fifteen shelters for those who go on foot, with several others available to those who follow the trails into Alberta. Eight to eighteen miles apart, they demand only easy trips, often with time left to detour on peaks or to fish in clear, snow-fed lakes. One need carry only camera, spare clothing and slicker, since camps provide bed, shelter and food.

Safety is a matter of course. Most trails are well graded and wide: the "greenest" tyro, keeping to them, need not fear accident or over-exercise. This latter point calls for emphasis, since it means that children and those of poor physique may take trail trips on foot with confidence. I have seen a twelve-year-old city boy walk to the crest of Dawson Pass, while youngsters of four or five will be happy on many a lakeside trail. As for

some of the so-called strenuous climbs: a portly tourist with asthma, a weak heart and poor arches walked from Many Glaciers to Piegan Pass and back one day and still had time to loiter in woods where birds and whortleberries were abundant. Nor did she take dinner in bed—as some are said to do who ride!

Freedom, beauty and knowledge are the rewards of those who travel the trails on foot. A horse at best is a callous beast that is trained to walk, trot or stop in line, not to humor its rider's desires. That line itself is a formal affair that starts, goes and halts as one, lest its body degenerate into chaos. In it, one may not loiter or dismount at will; nor may he force the whole party to wait while he alone admires some mountain. Yet unless these liberties are enjoyed, the trip may yield small enjoyment and knowledge. Subjecting one's objects to the routine of groups is not a broad pathway to recreation.

Compare, then, the freedom of those who depend upon their own hobnailed boots. They may pause a minute, an hour or a week and still cause no one else discomfort. Their schedule lies between themselves and time;

they start of their own accord in the morning and arrive when they are ready at night. Nor do they waste morning hours while guides hunt horses lost during the night:

I ate my dozen flapjacks and was feeling fine,

But the horses may not show up until half-past nine;

The guide rode out to find them, but they must have flown—

So I sit here at the corral, forsaken and lone.

So hummed one "dude" who had been promised an early sight of mountain sheep on the Continental Divide. His companions were less cheerful, for they already had waited an hour. If those infernal horses only would come!

Hikers, meanwhile, were on the trail. They saw mountain sheep and goats; watched a pica spread its



A tent shall be our home. We pitch it for a day, a week, a season. It shelters us from sun, rain or snow.



Paths and peaks of the Rockies are the scenes in which the Indian hunter Ah-ka-noosta sought and found the secret of youth. We visit them that we may recapture, not our own youth but that of the earth itself. Come with us through flower-filled valleys, across wind-swept passes, up the trails worn by the mountain goat, where inquisitive deer pause in the pathway—trails that lead into the past, to the days when our ancient earth was young.



Freedom, beauty and knowledge reward those who travel the trails on foot.

hay out to dry on a sunny slab of dark green shale. In that shale were crumpled, pinkish balls that seemed to be primitive fossil plants, and the geologically-minded paused to discuss their age and habits of life. Others climbed to a chilly, windswept slope where tiny alpine willows grew, their catkins six inches from the ground. Our rock-hunter hammered at beds on a cliff, in which large gray fossils lay; the other trained his camera for the view that led to the western mountains of the Park. Shadows in the foreground were too strong, and while waiting for the light to change he sketched a nearby alpine fir clinging to a precipitous wall. The whole day was his to use—and with only eighteen miles to go, why should he hurry and so spoil a film?

Even greater leisure comes to those who camp for a fortnight, a month, or even the whole short mountain summer. Most of them come by motor car, though those who prefer travel by train may rely on buses to carry their goods from one public camp to another. They themselves may ride with their bedding and tents, or may hike from one chalet to the next while their duffle is held until they arrive.

Campers receive chief benefit from the ranger naturalist service. Seventeen people took the trail on that morning hike to Dawson Pass, of whom a few came from the chalets. Two were small children whose parents turned back after two miles beside the lake. One was a boy of twelve who walked the seven miles to the pass and was ready for another trip on the morrow, six were girls of high school age, and the others were

young to middle-aged adults. Neither athletes nor mountaineers, they climbed twenty-four hundred feet and returned, yet were ready for a camp-fire that evening.

What did they gain from this typical trip? First, good exercise and fresh air, in moderation to fit their needs. Second, a series of beautiful views of lakes, mountains, glaciers and trees, seen twice and with time enough for enjoyment. Third, an acquaintance with flowers, trees and birds by the way; with rocks, fossils and the action of glaciers that deepened these valleys and cut steep cliffs. Not a detailed acquaintance, I grant; the naturalist stressed principles that might stay, not minor facts too easily forgotten. But as far as two critical scientists could find, he appealed with almost equal success to children, school girls and middle-aged parents.

The naturalists thus are important links in a national park's recreation program. At the least (some are uninspired men) they give information not to be found in compact official booklets; at most, they become hosts, advisors, guides, teachers and pleasant companions upon the trail.

Yet nature resources of a national park cannot be exhausted by naturalists' programs. Many visitors (chiefly those who hike) work out programs of their own, becoming amateurs in science as they follow valley and mountain trails. Some parents adopt similar methods: partly for their own pleasure and knowledge, partly that their children may gain full rewards from summers

(Continued on page 164)

Like Spring—It's in the Air!

More about hobbies—that fascinating pursuit sure to lead you far afield!

By ERNA D. BUNKE
National Recreation Association

"**B**Y HEAVENS, I love you! I care not who knows it!"

This is *not* the beginning of an old-fashioned proposal!

"Two A. M. in an almost empty subway. Torn newspapers blowing across the floor. A girl sleeping with her head on her companion's shoulder; the sleeper with her mouth open, the other attempting wearily to close it."

This is *not* the opening paragraph of a current story!

"Please hold this letter in your hands a moment and give it a warm welcome, for it comes many miles to say, 'How do you do, Mr. Brown'."

This is *not* the note which a persistent reporter found under the rug!

All three are interesting illustrations of a word that has always stirred imaginative people, and that, more recently, has swept the country with its amazing potentialities. That word is hobbies.

The first illustration brings a valentine of long ago —

"By heavens I love you! I care not who knows it!
I cannot disguise it. Each act of mine shows it.
Be as kind, my dear Nan, and let the world see
That you don't care who knows how fond you're of me."

This is from one of the many valentines owned by Mr. Frank Baer of Cleveland, who has been collecting valentines for more than 35 years and has what he believes to be the finest collection in the country. Mr. Baer is interested chiefly in collecting early valentines and has found this a stimulating and amusing hobby. Another from his collection expresses a sentiment which might be voiced even in these times,

"I love you and I love you not
And there a paradox you've got.
I love your person, not your mind
For there much ignorance I find.
Learn wisdom and I may incline
To take you for my valentine."

"Have not the wise men of all ages — not excepting Solomon himself — have they not had their hobby horses and running horses, their coins and cockle shells, their drums and their trumpets, their fiddles, their pallets and maggots, and their butterflies?" — *Tristram Shandy*.

The statement beginning, "Two A. M. in an almost empty subway," is taken from the note book of a girl whose hobby is seeking purple patches in New York—an intriguing subject! She watches ships come in, sings with the Communists, visits fish peddlers, rides horseback in Central Park, feeds the squirrels at the Battery, goes to lectures at Town Hall and Union Square and because she is intensely alive and has a fine sense of appreciation of little things, she is accumulating a bushel basket full of adventures.

"But why," this young lady wants to know, "does the world feel that it is a very noble gesture to rise at 4:30 to watch a sunrise, and a demoralizing one to stay up until 4:30 to watch that same streak of silver and gold in the sky?"

The third illustration deals with the hobby of a girl who likes to write letters—letters which she attempts to make so interesting and unusual that the recipient will not only answer immediately, but will answer in a similar, responsive vein. She writes to her friends who are ill or away, doing her own amateurish but decidedly clever illustrations. Her business letters are original enough to receive more than casual consideration. Recently she saved soap coupons and acquired, eventually, six silver tea spoons. She wrote a "thank you" letter and the astonished firm sent her some soup spoons to go with her set.

Hobbies Come Into Their Own

The subject of hobbies is one which is deservedly coming into its own. Every magazine, newspaper and radio broadcast shouts the slogan, "Have a hobby." Lecturers, regardless of their

designated subject, wander into this alluring field. The president's wife and the shoemaker's daughter are equally interested.

There is a difference of opinion as to the meaning of the word hobby. Some think of it as any occupation participated in when free to make a choice. Others, and this is undoubtedly the more accurate meaning, think of it as an activity with a somewhat permanent interest. Tennis may be merely a recreational activity or it may be a hobby, depending upon the time and interest given.

"Have you ever gone into raptures over shaving mugs, or sighed in despair over old cigar bands?" asks one ardent collector. "That's having a hobby."

"If you are just a bit crazy about some special interest—then you have a hobby," adds another collector.

"Yes, and a bit intolerant of the other fellow's interest," says his friend, who is a pinochle enthusiast. "Now I wouldn't give you two cents for all the bridge games in the world."

Whatever its definition, having an extravagant interest in almost anything is very pleasant and men and women are finding gold mines in the intelligent pursuit of a worthwhile interest. A hobby is a most useful adjunct of life, and one that often helps to preserve life itself. It can bring a growth of knowledge and power, a sense of growing with the times, a constant association with interesting subjects.

There are many people who have no hobby and who frankly confess they do not want one. There are others who seem to lack the motive that lies back of the necessary effort to start a hobby. They say, not very convincingly, "If I

had more time"—or "Some day I am going to"—then they go back to smug conversations and effortless recreation. But an amazing number of people do have hobbies, and are finding life a much richer gift.

Dr. George Pratt, a noted psychiatrist, takes a psychological look and gives a warning. "People," he says, "too often ride hobbies because a normal outlet in their lives has been frustrated, a well directed diversion which the individual recognizes as such is an excellent means of preserving mental health, but there is a danger of becoming fanatical about it."

This is unfortunately true. Hobbies are developed sometimes only because the pressure of life becomes unbearable and something must be taken up that will demand whole hearted interest. Under such conditions hobbies are apt to become too absorbing and an abnormal situation is created.

But more often people do not take up hobbies, but are themselves taken up by hobbies. To illustrate this a girl writes, "I have an uncle who is a doctor, and it is a quaint conceit of his to remark laughingly, 'I am not a doctor, I am a farmer.' Surely a doctor's life is one spent in a harness of utmost rigor and compulsion and yet my uncle has never found the pressure unbearable, and has felt no need for release. Then, why

However grave the ills of the depression, it has given many people opportunity to develop skill in their hobbies.



Courtesy California Parent Teachers Association

must he have a garden wherever he is? For the pure delight of growing things. Every one of father's family must grow something and when they get together it is like a meeting of the Horticultural Society in full swing. I believe when we were babies, and they came to see my father and mother, they did not ask first, 'How are the children?' but 'How are the dahlias doing?'"

There is a saying that "Hobby horses cost more than drab steeds," but one of the best features of a hobby is that it may be expensive or may cost nothing. There are four definite types of hobbies—doing things, learning things, creating things, acquiring things, and frequently there is a general overlapping.

The Four Types of Hobbies

The first deals largely with the world of sport and game—fishing, hiking, horse racing, archery, swimming, camping, tennis and the like. Not only active, intensive participation in these activities is demanded if they are hobbies, but also an intelligent study of the history, technique, leaders of each sport.

The second type of hobby—learning things—falls distinctly in the educational realm, for students, philosophers, thinkers. A study of criminal psychology, international amity, the Chinese language, astronomy—these are intellectual hobbies. The art of conversation is receiving some serious consideration these days. In many groups, talk seldom soars above the boundaries of stocks, sport, bridge, women, clothes. One girl said, "I'd hate to have a husband who would always turn first to the sporting page." An unemployed man whose hobby is the study of ancient languages says, "Despite our hurts, we still have the dignity of the mental world."

The third type of hobby, creating things, is perhaps the most satisfying, for it brings an opportunity to appease that vague inner craving to do something inimitably one's own—to be able to say, "I made this."

All the fine arts come under this heading—modeling, wood carving, sculpturing, painting, etching, and some lesser arts; spinning, weaving, knitting, sewing; Classes in appreciation of art are flooded. Art museums everywhere these days are making every effort to assist the layman toward increased enjoyment of art through enlarged understanding. "Today I learned something," a young woman confided. "I had always thought that an artist tries to reproduce an exact scene. It

seems that is not so. He tries to reproduce a sunset by expressing the mood induced in him by the sunset, melancholy, joyous, exultant or any of another dozen responses."

Gardening is a creative hobby to which more and more people are turning, as something that sweeps away the cobwebs of every day monotony. Dr. William Manson of Granville, N. Y., broadcast, "Take one hoe, one rake, and apply vigorously to the soil at least three times a week."

A stenographer has a small window box which she watches anxiously for the first sign of something green; and in California, Mrs. Herbert Evans designed a garden so lovely it attracted national attention. There is lively gaiety in some spots and quiet peace in others. Mrs. Evans once dreamed of a blue hillside and so had planted iris, blue Mexican daisies, mountain lilac, violets, and other blue flowers. For two days each year, the garden is open to anyone who wishes to see it, from dawn until dark. She gives each guest a poem. One year it was Lyman's "Come into the garden, friend, for we adore it and wish to share its treasures with thee."

The fourth type of hobby, collecting things, seems to be the most general, and of course means much more to the individual than the mere acquisition of some material objects. One can scarcely collect anything without adding to the store of general knowledge.

Early in 1700, Browne Willis, an Englishman began collecting. His eccentricities were so original as to make him famous.

In America, collecting is said to have begun with James Lenox, who in 1847 bought a copy of the Gutenberg Bible for \$2,500.

Collecting old things has a decided fascination, perhaps because every old thing in some degree has a story and so sets the imagination at work.

The list of things which people collect is inexhaustible; some are more unusual than others—original cartoons, penny dreadfuls, primitive airs from the Indians, fleas, ancient drinking songs, international dolls, inanimate things that do not yelp or have to be fed, fireside screens, old tavern signs, steins, sun dial verses. This last mentioned hobby demands travel, for no verse may be copied unless it has been seen on the sun dial. In the Martha Washington garden at Mt. Vernon is one which reads,

"I record none but the sunny hour."

(Continued on page 165)

Plays For The Little Actor

AT THE AGE of nine most children are ready to appear in formal drama.

Story dramatization and the increasing use of drama as an aid to teaching in the lower grades have interested many children in the fascinating art of acting by this time. It is supposed that hitherto their little plays have been presented before the classroom or for the sole amusement of a very limited circle of friends their own age. Now they may venture to take part in the assembly program, the public playground performance or perhaps the community's children's theater.

When the little players go before an adult audience, too much care cannot be given to the selection of the play. The plays suggested in the following list have been tried and proved successful through many productions. A number of collections are suggested because many of the plays for children of this age are too short to appear in any other form. Since children like to produce a play quickly and go on to

By MABEL FOOTE HOBBS
National Recreation Association

their next production, the director will find the collections an economical way of keeping a supply of plays on hand.

For children taking part in formal drama for the first time the following suggestions are made:

The Dearest Wish by Pauline Oak. A story-telling festival in which a large number of children may participate. National Recreation Association. (Free.)

A Pageant of Play by May Pashley Harris. Especially adapted to playground groups. National Recreation Association. \$.15.

The Stolen Tarts by Mabel Foote Hobbs. Seven principal characters and many extras. A dramatization of the nursery rhyme in two short acts. National Recreation Association. \$.25.

Childasoo, the Health Gypsy by Erna Bunke. A large cast may be used in this play which emphasizes the need of sleep, fresh air and proper diet. National Recreation Association. \$.10.

Eleven Plays for Little Children by Edith Lombard Squires. Short plays in verse. Very simple and fun to

give on a summer afternoon. Playhouse Plays. Fitzgerald Publishing Corp., New York. \$.40.

Everyday Plays for Home, School and Settlement by

"The First May Basket" given by the children of the Betsey Head Playground, Brooklyn, N. Y. A background of screens hung with strips of green crepe paper made a satisfying forest.



Virginia Olcott. Four of the six plays in this collection are especially recommended—"Flowers in the Palace Garden," "The Ruler of the Forest," "The Troll of the Mountains" and "Little People of Autumn." Dodd, Mead & Company, New York. \$2.00. Other excellent collections by the same author are *Patriotic Plays for Young People* and *Holiday Plays for Young People*.

Plays for the Children's Hour by Carolyn Sherwin Bailey. Twenty tested plays, especially adapted to school room presentation, and several helpful chapters on production. Milton Bradley Co., Springfield, Mass. \$1.75.

Little Lost Aster by Virginia Olcott. About 20 character. A flower child who wanders away from her garden and forgets her name and home is rescued by the Bumble Bee Police. National Safety Council, New York. \$.25.

The plays in the following list are suitable for children who have had some previous experience with formal drama:

Silver Bells and Cockle Shells by Marion Holbrook. Eight principal characters and many extras. The story of Mistress Mary's garden in verse with songs and dances introduced. An attractive outdoor play. National Recreation Association. \$.25.

Eight Little Plays by Rose Fyleman. Gay, sedate, humorous or serious, these little plays are charming reflections of the moods of childhood. Doubleday, Doran, New York. \$1.25.

Let's Pretend by Lindsey Barbee. Six well-written plays with enough substance to attract the practical as well as the imaginative child. T. S. Denison & Co. Chicago. \$1.25.

Little Plays by Lena Dalkeith. Robin Hood, Sir Garth, Topsy and others from history and literature provide characters for five well-constructed plays. Drama Book Shop. New York. \$1.00.

The Crystal Slipper by Marion Holbrook. Seven characters and many extras. Another glimpse of Cinderella and the famous slipper. Children never tire of this subject. National Recreation Association. \$.25.

Citizenship Plays by Eleanore Hubbard. A wide selection of scenes that make the development of the country vivid and exciting. Benjamin H. Sanborn & Co., New York. \$1.00.

A Child's Book of Holiday Plays by Frances Gillespy Wickes. A rich source of drama material for the days children delight in celebrating. Macmillan Co., New York. \$.80.

Harper's Book of Little Plays "The Frog Fairy" is especially recommended. The other five plays represent an interesting variety of authors and subjects. Harpers & Brothers. New York. \$1.25.

The King Who Burned the Cakes by Marion Holbrook. Four characters. The absentminded King Alfred is a perennial favorite. Again his ears are boxed by the good wife and again the thrilling news of victory is brought to the exile. National Recreation Association. \$.25.

One-Act Plays for Young People Edited by M. A. Jagendorf. Thirteen plays, many of them off the beaten track of plays for children. Delightful, amusing and popular. Brentano's, New York. \$2.00.

A Book of Marionette Plays by Anne Stoddard and Tony Sarg. Children have claimed these puppet plays for their own. Red Riding Hood, Jack and the Beanstalk, Hansel and Gretel and Rip Van Winkle are always in demand, and here are plays about them. Greenburg, New York. \$2.00.

Indoor and Outdoor Plays for Children by John Farrar. These nine plays were written for children and their parents to present informally during the summer vacation. Noble & Noble, New York. \$2.00.

Outdoor Plays for Boys and Girls Edited by A. P. Sanford. Of the twenty-six plays in this collection, ten are for boys between nine and twelve. Washington, Lincoln, Chief Black Hawk, Robin Hood and Rip Van Winkle are among the characters. Dodd, Mead & Co. \$2.50.

How the Elm Tree Grew by Marion Holbrook. Four characters and many extras. A nature play based on the fact that some of the large elm trees now growing in New England were brought from England as seedlings by early settlers. National Recreation Association. \$.20.

The Enchanted Garden by Constance D'Arcy Mackay. Ten characters and others. A June play for outdoor production. Unusually charming and of literary value. French, New York. \$.30. Royalty \$2.00.

The Treasurer Chest by Josephine Thorp. Twenty-five characters or more as desired. A pageant-play in which many dances are introduced. Delightful for outdoor production. Old Tower Press, Lockport, Illinois. \$.40.

A Garden Cinderella by Edith Burrows. Nine characters and extras. The flowers laugh at the little green worm who wishes to go to the party. Then, like Cinderella, the worm is the fairest guest—a luna moth. Penn Publishing Co., Philadelphia. \$.25.

Where Fairies Fail by Mary McKittrick. Seven characters and extras. The kindness of two children accomplishes more than fairy charms. Old Tower Press. \$.40.

Bruin's Inn by Anne Townsend. Four characters and extras. Joe and Betty learn from the forest animals what harm they have caused by neglecting to put out their camp fire. National Safety Council, New York. \$.25.

The Lost Camping Place by Mary Foote. Nine characters and extras. The favorite camping place of the children is destroyed through their carelessness in leaving their camp fire unguarded. Dances of fire spirits and winds are introduced. National Safety Council. \$.25.

The Cracker Conspiracy by Anne Townsend. About twenty characters. The Brown children learn that a safe and sane Fourth of July has its advantages. The fire-crackers themselves are members of the cast. National Safety Council. \$.25.

Little Plays for Little People Edited by A. P. Sanford. A collection of plays for holidays and special weeks observed in the schools. Dood, Mead & Co. \$2.50.

NOTE: All the plays listed other than those issued by the N. R. A., may be obtained from the Drama Book Shop, 48 West 52nd Street, New York.

Nature for Leisure

By **SETTIE HIRSCH**

MORE AND MORE in these days of social reconstruction when more leisure is anticipated, the individual must be referred to his inner self, that self which, when all is said and done, is the only satisfying security attainable. The loss of money and material things has created havoc with many of the superficial enjoyments hitherto obtained from extraneous pleasures. Most of us are no longer able to spend hard earned cash for recreations which are all the more needed since life has become more complicated, the means of livelihood more precarious and leisure time greater. The NRA through lengthening the hours of leisure has intensified the problem of using non-working hours in a way which will make them recreational, satisfying and economical.

There is one vital phase of the use of leisure which should be stressed. It is the recreation which comes from the study and understanding of nature itself, the nature by which we are surrounded and which to most of us is the great unknown. Much stress has been laid, and rightly so, upon the use of painting and sculpture as emotional and recreational outlets for leisure time, but there are innumerable people who can never learn to draw, whose sense of color is non-existent and who cannot use their hands sufficiently well to arouse enthusiasm for the use of leisure through manual arts.

Nature can be appreciated by every one. Who does not love a flower, a bloom, a bird, a tree? And they are within easy walking or riding reach for all to enjoy. While this enjoyment of nature is pleasurable and desirable, the use of nature-in-leisure which I would recommend goes deeper; it is the study of nature's various phases not in their most scientific form, but in a way which will bring about a close and intimate acquaintance with nature. This can be done by learning to



Ability to recognize trees and flowers by name adds to enjoyment of leisure spent in the open.

know the names and kinds of trees we see as we walk, their bark and leaf arrangement, to know a flower by its habitat, where and how it grows when wild; to recognize a bush in spring by its blossoms, in autumn by its fruit, and to get a thrill when suddenly coming upon a variety you know and to experience the feeling that you have met a friend. These are the pleasures of leisure that can be obtained in any park or woodland, but knowledge alone is the open sesame to these joys.

In America the inculcation of this knowledge has been sadly neglected, and we have not imbibed it, as the European has, from childhood on. So slight is our acquaintance with nature that even when walking through fields with people brought up in the country, one may ask the common name of almost any ordinary tree, flower, bird or bush and for the most part be met with ignorance. Surely the ability to recognize by name would bring the joys of nature nearer, and in time would lead to a closer study and an un-

derstanding which would mean much to the individual and his leisure. Things learned are living things!

Studying Nature in the Open

One reason for this lack in America is that our public schools fail to take cognizance of the practical value of studying nature in the open. Who in his travels in Europe has not seen large groups of children with botany boxes at hand roaming the woods in charge of teachers ready to give instruction in detail about what is seen? This is to a great degree responsible for the adult European's joy in his woods and the amount of time he gives to them during his leisure hours. He is also stimulated by his museums and universities where curators and professors are constantly asking the public to join them in Sunday and holiday hikes and helping to inspire and teach the individual to appreciate the value of what he sees in the out-of-doors the year round.

To stimulate children in their love of nature is very simple. All children respond quickly to plant and animal life, and childhood is the time to inculcate a real and lasting love of nature to the end that the child who will be the adult of the future will develop the thrill of knowledge as part of his joy in life.

To demonstrate how children can be directed to the study of nature, let me tell you of a group of youngsters whose only contact with the open had come from a room in a school functioning in the most congested part of the city, where a private organization, the School Nature League, with headquarters in the Museum of Natural History in New York, was operating in an effort to bring nature to the school child. The room was open to the street, and the children would come in after school hours to browse about and learn to know wild flowers, branches of trees, shrubs, and even some live animals at close range. Many of these children had never had the joy of seeing a blade of grass grow; yet when some of them were taken to the country for the first time they jubilantly recognized and named spontaneously the different kinds of oaks, willows, and wild flowers, such had been the impression made upon their young minds by their acquaintance with nature indoors. Surely such knowledge will mean much to the leisure hours that are gradually increasing in our changing world. Things learned from the inside are valuable because they are felt and become a part of us; nature learned from the

inside can become a constant stimulation and recreation.

My plea is for classes of school children to be taken to the open and taught there to know what they see, so that each growing thing will have a value of its own. I am also asking that it be made possible, through work relief funds, for the many college graduates who have specialized in botany and kindred subjects and who are at the present time unemployed, to take to the great out-of-doors groups of men and women, and reveal to them the secrets of nature, thereby giving to leisure hours a fuller and richer meaning.

There is no reason why we should not stimulate interest in nature as we do in painting, sculpture or short story-writing—the more so as this form of recreation with all its spiritual values is easily accessible.

"There is a fundamental need for a closer intimacy between the child and the world of nature than is ordinarily recognized in our educational systems. It is true that unless one is to be a navigator or an astronomer one has no real need for knowledge of the stars. It is true that we have provided against all except the most violent extremes of weather. It is true that we get most of our flowers already cut, our beans already baked, and that our food and fibre plants and animals are ready to eat or wear without any need on our part to know the conditions under which they lived when they did live. Yet it is the absence of such knowledge about the structure and workings of our material world and of our organic environment that constitutes for the mass of people the emptiness of ages into which are poured freak religions, health fads and perverted cults. The young child who has the opportunity to learn the stars and the weather, the birds and the bugs, the soil and the water, through intimate contact, identifies himself with the universe in a way that seems almost impossible for a child who has somehow escaped such contacts. He may, perhaps, acquire later as a part of formal study his knowledge of the requirements of living things, of their dependence upon air and light and water and food, of their varied ways of responding to changing conditions, of their relations to one another and to man, of their distinctive capacities. But knowledge acquired at first hand through the early years gives one a feeling for the essentials which school processes can seldom assure."—Benjamin C. Gruenberg, *Child Study*.

The Dawn of a New Era for Tennis

By IAN EISENHARDT

Supervisor, Playgrounds and Recreation
Board of Park Commissioners
Vancouver, B. C., Canada

IN THE LAST two years tennis has increased greatly in popularity, and the year 1933 saw many exciting tournaments throughout the world and many thrilling events by players of all nationalities, including the capture of the Davis cup by the British team. While the world at large has heard of these major tournaments at Wimbledon and Forest Hills, many other tournaments were played equally interesting to their participants and spectators which, however, were less well known and were never given widespread publicity.

Vancouver, B. C., held its second public courts tennis tournament sponsored by the Park Board and the *Vancouver Daily Province*. It was not a commercial undertaking, and there were no entry fees, the expenses for balls and prizes being met by the *Daily Province*. Just one condition was made—namely, that players belonging to the big clubs should not be allowed to play in order that the tournament might be more interesting to the average player. The number of entries received was record breaking. For the seven events there were 830 registered.

We had one week, Monday to Saturday inclusive, in which to run off the tournament and at first it seemed an impossible task. It took three nights to make the draws, and a committee of six worked from 8:00 to 12:00 P. M. and sometimes later. When at last the draw was made it was found that twenty-three score sheets had been used.

Park Commissioner R. Rowe Holland opened the tournament Monday morning, July 24th, at 8:00 o'clock. On the first and the second days more than 600 matches were run off and

From all parts of the United States come reports of increase in tennis playing, of improved, but never adequate, facilities, and of a growing list of tennis fans. And now from Canada comes testimony to the great popularity of the sport in the public recreation program.

19 courts were in constant use. At times four additional courts situated nearby were brought into play.

In the "paddock," the space near the committee tent, draw sheets and the information desk were placed. Around this space on benches sat the waiting couples. As soon as one match was over a signal was given to the next couple on the waiting list to go on the court.

The committee worked indefatigably to make everything run smoothly. The chief worry was to arrange matches among those who had marked their blanks "only in the morning" and those who had indicated they were free only in the evening. Several young men placed themselves and their cars at our disposal and participants were sometimes called for and brought back after the game. As soon as the games were over on one day the results and draw for the next day were typed out. Lacking other lighting facilities, we were forced to use the headlights from an automobile.

When a player arrived he checked in and sat down near the committee room. Immediately upon the arrival of his opponent the names were called and the two players went on a court if one was vacant. The winner of the match was responsible for reporting the result and returning the three balls used. No score was registered before the balls had been checked in. In this way very few of the thousand balls used were lost.

Young and old mingled on the courts and there were many father and son combinations in the men's doubles, as well as mother and

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The Construction of Pedestrian Paths Along the Highways

THE MOVEMENT for the construction of paths for pedestrians along highways, referred to in an article appearing in the June 1932 issue of RECREATION, has received an impetus under the provisions of the Public Works and Civil Works Administrations. This type of project qualifies for Federal aid from these funds because it meets a definite public need, provides much hand labor and can be carried on to advantage over large sections of the country providing emergency relief labor for large numbers of people near their homes. It has been pointed out that no other type of construction so closely conforms to the definitions of desirable projects, especially those set down by the Civil Works Administration, than do the grading and base preparation for highway sidewalks. In addition to providing work for large numbers of unemployed, they create a much needed public improvement requiring little maintenance expense and contributing greatly to public safety.

Several individuals interested in hiking have expressed the opinion that to attract hikers and to be most suitable for recreational walking, footpaths should have a surface resembling as nearly as possible natural soil conditions. Highway engineers and others experienced in road construction believe, on the other hand, that unless walks are smooth and equally satisfactory for walking as the surface of the road along which they are constructed, pedestrians will not be likely to use them. Since periods of inclement weather and seasons when the ground is in poor condition for walking are the times when pedestrians are most likely to walk on the paved highways, it is im-



Courtesy Highway Engineer and Contractor

portant that walks which are constructed be in condition for use at all times.

According to the State Highway Commission in Wisconsin where a considerable mileage of footpaths has been constructed under both NRA and the CWA programs, the design of the paths is as follows:

"Excavation to a depth of 5 inches is made below grade. This excavation is back filled with about 3 inches of loose gravel, cinders or other coarse material. On top of this coarser material is placed a 2 inch layer of finer aggregate with a proportion of sand, and the top surface is bound together with tar or asphaltic oil, and the whole rolled. The surface is then seal coated and a small amount of torpedo sand applied to the seal coat.

"These footpaths are being constructed not along the shoulders of the road but along the fences and right of way lines following the general contour of the ground except where water is liable to accumulate where a fill is made, and the footpath constructed above water level. We have endeavored in our work to construct a smooth walk because we realize that unless the walks are smooth, they will not be used, and have endeavored to make them as cheap as possible in order to get the maximum mileage with the funds available."

Because of the years of experience in the construction and maintenance of footpaths along the parkways of the Westchester County (N. Y). Park Commission, the opinion of Mr. Herman W. Merkel, the General Superintendent, is of special value:

"I do not believe that the ordinary cinder path such as we have built through most of our parks is sufficiently durable for use along highways. In congested areas along our parkways or where the walks are used to cross to railroad stations or for other purposes than occasional pleasure hiking during good weather, we have had to place a bituminous top on all of them. The same is also true where there is any slope on which the cinder path would quickly wash away.

"I firmly believe that bituminous-paved walks are ideal for the sidewalks along highways except where such highways run through towns or villages. In these places concrete sidewalks should be laid.

"The specifications for the construction of these paths will vary greatly with their location, the character of the soil on which they are laid and the drainage problem, and I do not believe that any hard or fast specifications can be established, but I would say that for bituminous walks, a layer of from four to six inches of coarse or gravel well compacted with a three-inch top of bitumen laid by either the penetration or the pre-mixed process would be sufficient in the rural areas."

No special specifications for walks along the highways have been prepared by the highway departments in New Jersey, Louisiana, New York or Massachusetts, although their construction is authorized by law. In the last named state, "Footpaths or sidewalks have not been constructed unless the city or town in which the sidewalk is located has agreed to construct a hardened surface after the grading has been done. No special type of hardened surface is required, therefore, we have no specifications which have been used for the purpose."

Under the New York law, "A town may petition a county for the construction of sidewalks along a state highway. If the county consents, it must pay 65% of the cost and the town 35%. The only way the State comes into it is that it must approve the plans for the sidewalk—the object being, of course, to see that the sidewalk is so located that pedestrians will not be endangered or that the sidewalks will not be destroyed through future development of the road."

According to the Louisiana State Highway Engineer, "No work of this nature had been done by this Department prior to the Recovery Act work and the work which is now being done is located inside of municipalities where the requirements are for a standard sidewalk."

Legislation passed in 1933 authorized townships of both the first and second class in the State of Pennsylvania to construct walks along the highways. The law relating to second class townships specifies that supervisors may construct sidewalks of board, plank or cement or other suitable material along the high-

The movement for the construction of pedestrian paths received impetus when a resolution was adopted by the Special Board for Public Works stipulating that after January 1, 1934, all loans or grants to finance public highway projects shall contain provisions to ensure that the rights-of-way for such highways shall be at least 150 feet wide and that footpaths shall parallel them.

ways through towns and villages in such townships.

The importance of footpaths as a feature of highway design and roadside improvement is recognized by the Bureau of Public Roads of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. In a series of charts prepared by William H. Simonson, Landscape

Architect with the Bureau, and published in *The American City* for January 1934, footpaths are among the features considered. Diagrams indicating the approximate distribution of area in 100 feet and 200 feet right of way sections for two and four lane highways, respectively, show 10% reserved for footpaths. Illustrations of roadside improvements for both urban and rural types of highways show locations of walks for pedestrians. In every instance these walks are at a considerable distance from the paved highway, generally with an intervening drainage ditch and landscaped area.

Among the problems requiring study and discussion by the Division of Subsistence Homesteads of the Department of the Interior are listed "the character of roads and footpaths." This indicates that provision for pedestrian travel is recognized as a problem worthy of consideration by the Federal Government.

In "Planning the Roadside," issued by the United States Department of Agriculture as Farmers Bulletin, No. 1481, there appears a series of diagrams illustrating suggested methods of developing and improving highways of different widths and types. Each of these many diagrams contains provision for a footpath bordering the paved section of the highway, at least on one side. In a number of instances these footpaths are at a considerable distance from the paved section and in many cases they wind along between plantings. It is clear that the provision of footpaths along highways through rural sections is recognized as a desirable feature.



Courtesy Highway Engineer and Contractor

How to Produce a Play

By JACK STUART KNAPP
National Recreation Association

Suggestive and realistic scenery each has a place.

The background of a play is a very important factor in its success, Mr. Knapp points out in this article in which he discusses various types of scenery, tells how to make them and discloses the secret of producing beautiful effects at a minimum expenditure of funds.

THE TERMS "stage scenery" and "stage setting" are not quite synonymous. "Scenery" is the physical background of the stage against which the actors are performing. "Stage setting," as the term is usually used, includes not only the scenery but the furniture, properties, and other visible accessories which complete the stage picture.

Every play must have its background or scene. There are many different kinds or styles of scenic design. There are realism, futurism, plasticism, cubism, stylism, constructivism, and many other "isms." For simplification we can divide all scenery into two classifications, "realistic" and "suggestive."

The terms explain themselves. Realistic scenery strives to create a "real" impression in the minds of the audience. If the action of the play takes place in a drug store, the scenic artists construct, as far as the sight of the audience is concerned, a drug store upon the stage as real in appearance as they can possibly make it. Suggestive scenery makes no pretense at appearing real. It merely suggests to the audience the place and atmosphere of the action. The drug store in a suggestive setting might be designated by having upon a gaily painted counter a large stylistic pestle and mortar carved out of bristol or compo board and painted. An apothecary scale made in a similar way might be placed upon the other side of the stage for balance, and two large painted cardboard bottles might be placed up center against a draped background. It suggests "drug store" to the mind of the audience, although certainly it does not look like one!

Each type of scenery has its place. The majority of plays require a realistic setting, a few (fantasies and allegorical plays) require a suggestive setting, and some plays (historical and geographic plays, satires and tragedies) may be done in either manner.

Scenery is often neglected by amateur groups, because of lack of funds, of knowledge, or of interest in this phase of stagecraft. Attractive and effective settings, however, can be made very inexpensively and scenic design and construction can be as fascinating as any other phase of stagecraft.

Good stage scenery is seen only the first few moments of the play. Then it is forgotten and the audience watches the actor. Why, then, spend time, effort and money to create only a momentary impression? Simply because poor scenery is seen all during the play. It may be so inappropriate as to distract or confuse the minds of the audience, so spectacular that the actor is lost against it, or so cheap and tawdry that the illusion of perfection necessary for every good production is lost.

A good stage setting not only tells the time and place of the action, but suggests the atmosphere and tone of the scene. Atmosphere is the mental or emotional state to be aroused in the audience. Tone might almost be referred to as physical atmosphere. Every condition has a number of tones. For instance, the scene is to suggest poverty, but one tone of poverty lends itself to simplicity, humbleness, contentment; another to filth, squalor and vice. One tone of wealth may be culture, beauty, refinement, while another may be self-indulgence, egotism and wild revels.

Perhaps the most useful piece of scenery that can be installed is a drapery setting. This consists of curtains hanging in folds across the back of the stage forming the back drop, and across each end of the stage. Or the ends of the stage may be masked with wings made of the draperies. The drapes begin up in the flies, or at the ceiling, and extend to the floor, hanging in full folds. Instead of having the drapery all in one large piece, it should be in strips, each strip overlapping its neighbor a few inches. This makes them much more mobile. Entrances and exits may be made at any place, short strips may be inserted for doors, and strips with a window cut into them may be put in where desired. Drapes hang more gracefully, and are easier to put up or take down. If they have a tendency to pull apart, pin them together. They may be hung from wires tightened by turnbuckles, or from small light lead piping.

If only one set of draperies is available, gray is to be preferred. It forms a soft neutral background, and can be made any color by throwing a light of the desired color upon it. Black, white and dark green drapes are also useful for various settings.

Draperies can be made of any number of materials. The least expensive is misprint cretonne which is purchased by the pound. It is flimsy, however, and too transparent if there is light behind it. Heavier materials are more satisfactory. Osneberg is very inexpensive, is quite heavy, and dyes well. Flannels form attractive drapery settings and are beautiful under light. They have one drawback, however; they are inflammable and care must be taken when using them. More durable and satisfactory materials, (also more expensive) are rep, monks cloth and cotton duveten.

The drapery setting belongs to the suggestive classification, and makes a formal and neutral background. Practically any play may be produced with them. If the setting is supposed to be a hovel, broken, battered furniture, a few boxes, a kerosene lamp flickering upon a table, and the stage lighted with dim lights create the effect. If a palace is called for, a couple of ivory pillars (made of painted building board or enameled stove pipes) may be set against the drapes, a gold chair placed upon a draped throne, the stage lighted with rose and violet lights, and the palace is complete!

Since drapes are so easily used, however, there is a strong tendency to overdo a good thing and

use them for everything, until the audience becomes tired of them.

Flat scenery is easily made. The frames are constructed of seasoned wood and covered with canvas or osneberg. The cloth is then sized and painted. The flats are lashed together with ropes and cleats. Most play production books have a chapter on scenery making. Flats may be painted over and over again, and gain in richness and tone with each painting.

For realistic living rooms or dining rooms, wall paper may be used. It is tacked over an old set of scenery and taken off after the performance. This does not hurt the scenery in the least. Shades of blue, gray and oatmeal may be obtained inexpensively. They take light beautifully and form attractive and realistic backgrounds.

For log cabins and huts an old setting may be covered with heavy brown wrapping paper, and the logs or rocks sketched in boldly with charcoal and high lighted with white chalk. This, of course, may also be removed after the performance is over.

For oriental settings, palace walls, etc., a framework of wooden strips may be erected about the stage, building out balconies, gables, windows and arched doorways as desired. The frame work is then covered with stretched chicken wire. Newspapers are soaked in a solution of glue and water and wadded into the chicken wire. After the setting is dry it may be painted with calcimine, and designs painted in as desired with other colors. Beautiful and rich settings may be fashioned in this manner with some labor but very small expense.

Outdoor settings may be built easily and inexpensively. First the stage should be equipped with a cyclorama. This is a large piece of material, either white or very pale blue or gray, stretched about the back of the stage in the form of a half circle. Canvas is generally used, although osneberg is also effective. It must be stretched tightly, without a fold or wrinkle. It may be held in place by two pieces of lead pipe bent into the half circle desired, one fastened to the ceiling or suspended from the flies, the other lying on the floor, the cloth being stretched between them. The cyclorama when lit represents the sky, and looks very airy and distant.

The horizon is made of a long length of building board or a framework covered with canvas. It is about two feet high, long enough to reach

(Continued on page 165)

County Grounds for Recreation

IN OUR LEISURE TIME, unless it is very limited, all of us naturally turn away from the city with its

noises and rush and nervous tension to conditions such as prevailed when the world was young. For the human nervous system has known the city for only a few milleniums, while its association with woods and streams and the open sky goes back to the time of Neanderthal and beyond.

The city offers the movie, the dance, the night club, and an intimate association with others, but these have little to offer a tired brain or depleted vitality. On the other hand the out-of-doors offers to us the open sky, the sunshine, the grass, the trees, the flowers, and all animate things. Most of those activities that belong to the far off history of the race, even though they may be laborious or even painful, are still restful.

It is surely more laborious to hunt for your dinner in the forest than it is to buy it at the corner store, but what sportsman would not prefer the former method, even though it involved many miles of walking with climbing over logs and rocks along difficult trails. Even the perils of the wild, its savage beasts and savage men, the dangers of the rushing stream, the thin air and blizzards of the Alpine height give us a thrill that stirs old racial memories and make us feel alive! We gladly work hard to build our house in the woods or make the bivouac and find it restful.

There is apparently at our doors an opportunity such as was never offered to a great people before. The White House study of Social Trends states that due to the new technical efficiency, our decreasing birth rate, the dropping out of immigration, and the loss of our foreign markets, we now have about 55,000,000 acres in cultivation more than we need. Ever since Secretary Wallace has been

By HENRY S. CURTIS, Ph. D.
Ann Arbor, Michigan

in office, he has been saying we have too much farm land, and in one way or another we must get 40 or 50 million

acres out of cultivation. At the meeting of the economists in Philadelphia a short time ago, Professor Tugwell, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, announced that the government had set aside several million to buy up land in four states in order to take it out of agriculture. This was to be marginal land, which is at present ruining the farmer who attempts to work it, and is putting a surplus on the market, thereby bringing down the prices for all, often below the cost of production. He said that if this experiment worked in these states, the government planned to put \$350,000,000 into this project in order to buy up 50 million acres of land. This land to be used largely for recreation as forests, game preserves, and parks.

There are 3200 counties in the United States, with perhaps 2000 agricultural counties. If 50 million acres of land were divided equally among 2000 counties it would give each county 25,000 acres of land, which would constitute a goodly forest and game preserve. Distributed over the county, it should secure most of its scenic and historic locations for parks as well.

The land which the state and the United States have bought in Michigan during the last decade, amounting to more than a million acres, has cost

about three dollars and a half an acre. It would seem that the seven dollars per acre allowed in the estimate should be ample, for much of the land that should be secured would be eroded hillsides or abandoned farms, or marshes or low lakes, which offer the best possible havens for waterfowl and fur bearers but which are nearly worthless for other purposes. Naturally as much wood-

During the depression there have been many helpful statements made by leaders in many fields regarding the value of recreation and the need for maintaining governmental expenditures for it in spite of the general need for economy in local government. It is interesting to recall that Dr. Curtis in his book, "The Play Movement and Its Significance," published in 1917, incorporated a very effective chapter on the cost of playground and recreation services in which he gave at that time as justification for expenditures for recreation many of the reasons now being advanced by thoughtful people.

land as possible should be included. Most great estates of England have their hunting forests, but this plan would give a hunting forest to the people of every county. In a game preserve animals and birds soon learn that they are protected and become nearly as tame as domestic animals. Wild geese in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, will very nearly, if not quite, eat out of your hand. The forests of America at the time of settlement were full of game. The forest and the game refuge go admirably together, and a comparatively small protected area will supply game to a large outlying country.

We are at present growing only about 25% of the timber we are using. Every community ought to have in its neighborhood a permanent supply of the wood and timber which it needs. In the long run, timber and game are the only profitable crops that can be grown on this marginal land.

If every county has a county forest, it will have also a camp site for the boy and girl scouts, the 4H clubs, the playgrounds, and any other groups who wish to camp out. Every boy and girl ought to have this opportunity for a time each summer, and sooner or later I hope every high school, at least, and perhaps many of the elementary schools are going to provide the opportunity for their students as much as they offer classes in

Geography or Latin. If we are seeking a use for leisure time, the most wholesome use for the most hours lies in a love of the out-of-doors. In this time of increasing leisure, every county needs to provide these leisure time opportunities as much as it does a court house. The schools should encourage and develop a love of birds and trees and flowers.

These park sites will also furnish opportunity for tourist camps, for picnic groves, for bathing beaches, for golf, tennis, and other forms of athletics. With a 30 hour week, adults are going to have much more time to hunt, fish, camp out, and play outdoor games. The community must prepare for it.

The time is peculiarly opportune to secure such a system, because there is much farm land that has ceased to have any value and which is going back to the state from non-payment of taxes. The farmer would really be better off to give his farm away than to attempt to work one of these marginal areas under present conditions.

The country is looking for work for the unemployed. The reforestation of these tracts, the building of roads, the making of bathing beaches, developing camp and picnic sites and athletic fields would give work to many.

There are probably in the neighborhood of

Are we at the beginning of a new day in outdoor life when we, too, shall live closer to nature?



Courtesy D. Carol Lane Fenton

one hundred thousand rural schools in America. Most of them have less than half an acre of ground. They need at least two acres for a playground alone; while if they are to have gardening and nature study, as most of them should, they need at least five acres. It would be much better to buy or lease this ground for the schools than to hire the farmers to let a portion of their land lie idle and grow up to weeds. For the department to set aside a quarter million acres for the schools would be only an incident in a 50 million acre allotment.

A word regarding the expense involved. A few of our state parks are already self-supporting, and others are approaching the economic condition through the sale of wood, the renting of camp sites and the ordinary proceeds from their bathing beaches and golf grounds. In the "process of the years" the timber and game from these areas will be far more valuable than any other crop they might raise. The fur bearers and game offer a large annual return in money and food as well as in fun. Pennsylvania estimates the value of its game alone at \$7,500,000 a year which would be 3% on \$224,000,000, nearly enough to buy the whole system of parks, forests and game preserves proposed. The tourist crop is dependent almost wholly on the opportunities for recreation offered. Michigan estimates that tourists bring more money into the state than any of its industries except the automobile. One of our leading citizens and editors has recently said our annual return from this source to be \$270,000,000, which would be 3% on nine billion dollars.

Of course most of these financial estimates are mere guesses. We are far more interested in the social returns, and here we can be more accurate. Such a system for each county would offer an opportunity for recreation to everyone, whether his interest is in golf, or hiking or swimming or hunting or fishing or camping. Perhaps no other country is rich enough to provide in every community the facilities for the recreation of all, from the school children to those who merely wish a scenic drive with a chauffeur.

Good roads and the automobile have made the country accessible as it never was before. While we need our city parks as breathing spaces it is no longer necessary to put all our recreation areas within the city boundaries. Prof. McKenzie's study in "Social Trends" shows that our densely populated city interiors have lost twenty percent of their population in the last fifteen years, while the metropolitan areas lying round about have

gained 50%. Wealthy citizens are largely building their fine new houses outside the city limits in order to have larger grounds and cheaper taxes, as the nobility of Europe has always done. Workingmen are moving out in order to have a garden and cheaper rent. Slowly the smaller industries are moving into the smaller towns. Henry Ford says in his autobiography that as soon as possible he intends to break his Highland Park plant up into a thousand plants which will be located in the small towns and operated by a local water power.

There are many things about the Government's plan which have not been definitely determined but if it works out in general as it has been outlined, it will be the beginning of a new day for outdoor life.

NOTE: The plan mentioned by Dr. Curtis for the diversion of marginal lands is outlined in the following announcement which appeared in the *New York Times*, January 4, 1934:

"Twenty-five million dollars has been allotted for the removal of submarginal lands from commercial crop production according to the announcement of the Emergency Administration of Public Works. This will turn to forest or non-crop status 40,000,000 to 50,000,000 acres unfit for farming. Submarginal lands taken out of production will be used for additions to the national domain, Indian reservations, national forests and parks. The three major areas in which it is understood the taking over of the worst farm lands will first be undertaken include sections of the Eastern Appalachian highlands and costal plain, the cut-over timberlands along the Great Lakes and the arid region of the Western Great Plains.

"A plan for the diversion of some of the marginal lands for the breeding of migratory and upland game birds was also offered by Secretary Wallace. Full development of the game-bird resources should give full-time rural employment to from 30,000 to 40,000 men and eventually utilize 50,000,000 or more acres of land according to a statement of the Department of Agriculture."

The February 28th issue of the *New York Times* announces the decision of the Land Policy Committee to purchase immediately \$25,000,000 worth of marginal farm land. Secretary Wallace estimates that the total acreage secured will be between 3,000,000 and 5,000,000 acres. The main problem, he said, will be to conserve the human interests. People living on these lands will be assisted in finding homes elsewhere.

WORLD AT PLAY

More Hobby Exhibits

HUNDREDS of people tramped into the auditorium of the Outlet Company in Providence to view a collection of exhibits representing the products of spare time work done by local people. It was the first hobby show to be sponsored by the Leisure Time Activities Committee, Inc., of Providence, and many people contributed to it. The exhibits ranged from such miniature attractions as wampum and arrowheads to such an elaborate project as a marionette stage complete with characters and lighting. This stage represented the major efforts of two members of a family and the incidental contributions of three other members of the same family.

Stix, Baer and Fuller, a department store in St. Louis, held a hobby show with over forty exhibits and demonstrations "of all the happy and productive things one can do in spare time." Talks and demonstrations were given by recognized authorities.

A Memorial Wading Pool

ARTHUR BRISBANE, the well-known newspaper man, was born in the old mansion now used as the Batavia, New York, City Hall. Austin Park, which is directly behind the City Hall, contains a beautiful large concrete wading pool, landscaped with a fine rock garden effect. Mr. Brisbane is the donor of this pool which he gave in memory of his father. The simple inscription on the tablet reads: "This pool for children was built by one of the children of Albert Brisbane." The pool formed an important part of the very successful playground program last summer.

Los Angeles Completes Playground Contest

IN April the Department of Playground and Recreation of Los Angeles, California, completed its city-wide backyard contest conducted in cooperation with the Tenth District Parent Teacher Associations. Neighbor-

hood committees comprising representatives of the P.T.A., municipal playgrounds and schools, inspected all the entries in every district under the supervision of the Parent Teacher Fathers' Councils of each neighborhood. Judging was based on the degree and quality of recreational development accomplished by backyard owners within the four classifications of the contest, which offered competition for yards developed at unlimited cost, at a maximum of \$15, at a maximum of \$5, and at no cost at all. The best yards in each class in every neighborhood received certificate awards and qualified for city-wide judging. Owners of winning backyards were honored at the annual Tenth District Parent Teacher Convention in Los Angeles.

School Workshops For Adults

THE Detroit, Michigan, Board of Education last winter opened the workshops of five of its schools in order that adults of the city might have an opportunity to follow their hobbies or to gain a practical knowledge of machinery. The courses were informal. Unless instruction was asked for each person worked on what he liked and came and went at any time. Competent instructors were in the room to give advice. There were no fees and no expenses except for materials.

New Recreation Building for Framingham

THE City of Framingham, Massachusetts, has used most advantageously federal and town welfare funds to develop its playgrounds and athletic fields. With \$28,000—\$16,000 of which was for labor; \$5,000 for materials and \$7,000 appropriated by the town—a splendidly equipped field house has been built on the large centrally located athletic field. The building contains well-appointed locker rooms, showers, toilets, large common rooms and a fine heating plant. It is divided into two sections—one for the use of school pupils, the other for community use. Each sec-

tion has its own showers, locker and club rooms. The large club rooms are about 50x30 feet. The basement contains a long room which may be used for floor games, such as shuffleboard, ping pong and similar games.

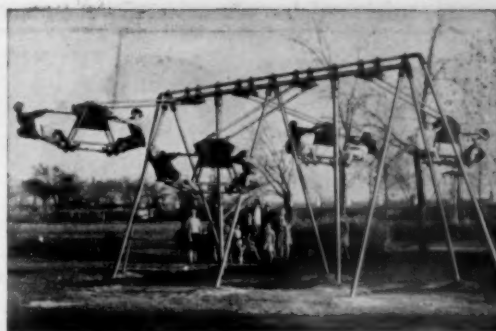
A Social Club for Young Men and Women—

Filling a distinct need of unemployed young men and women of Mount Vernon, New York, is an organization known as the Prometheus Social Club which makes it possible for young men and women to enjoy recreational opportunities together. There are twenty-two members between eighteen and twenty-five years of age who meet once a week at Campbell House. During the year they held group theater parties, dances, group parties, picnics and debates.

Bowling in Memphis—Sixty-six teams of women bowling under the auspices of the Park Board is the interesting report from Memphis, Tennessee. In order to make the expenses as low as possible, an afternoon program was started last year with a membership fee of 25 cents. Members bowl three games at 15 cents a game and each week contribute 5 cents for the prizes awarded at the end of the season. In November, 1933 a well-known woman bowler conducted a school for beginners. Over 350 women enrolled in this school which was held for five days at the recreation alleys. At the end of the school a new league for beginners was organized known as the Gold Division. This proved a satisfactory method of mixing the various groups, and as the girls were assigned to the teams it enabled the director to make a more equal distribution of playing strength.

Point System in Monroe, Louisiana—Last summer the Monroe, Louisiana, Recreation Department developed a point system for use on the playground. For each activity and program a specified number of points were given. The children did not work for individual prizes but their objective was to make their playground the best in the city. There were individual activities but these were scored for the ground and not for the child. Points were given for grounds having the following: Best attendance; greatest number national athletic badges awarded; best and largest handcraft exhibit; best scrap book; best made and produced

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puppet show; greatest number of activities, including extras; best clubs, story-telling activities and contest entrants, dramatic activities, tournaments and contests; best kept grounds; best sportsmanship; greatest improvement in grounds, programs and activities.

Albany's Municipal Golf Course—On May 28, 1932, Albany, New York, opened and dedicated to the public its new eighteen hole municipal golf course comprising 262 acres. A total of 34,979 players registered for play during the 188 days the course was open between May 6, 1933 to November 9, 1933. The 578 purchasers of seasonal permits played 20,192 times. The average play for the season members was 33 times in the 153 days of actual play. The following green fees were charged: Season membership, resident \$10; season membership, non-resident \$15; locker per season \$5; daily permit, eighteen holes or less, 50 cents—Sundays and holidays 75 cents.



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A New Game—The younger generation in Queens, New York City, likes a little spice with its recreation. Two special officers found four boys bounding back and forth over the high voltage third rail of an elevated structure. "We're playing skip the third rail," said one of the boys. "And how do you play that?" "Well, if you touch the third rail you lose."—From the United Press, New York, March 8th.

Notes From Cincinnati's Report—Needing much more land for recreational facilities but handicapped by financial conditions which required caution in land purchases, the Public Recreation Commission of Cincinnati sought the aid of other city departments which co-operated by transferring land under their control that could be spared. The City Manager, Finance Committee, the Council and the Law Department smoothed the way for this procedure. The city government then turned to the county government and to private concerns to secure additional land of vital importance. As a result the acreage under the control of

the Public Recreation Commission has more than doubled in the two year period, rising from 430 acres to 1,035 acres.

While engaged in adding 605 acres and \$650,000 worth of improvements to its recreational plant in a twenty month period, the city has been unable to make more adequate provision for the operating budget of the Commission. This budget dropped from an average of \$160,000 for preceding years to \$145,000 in 1932 and to \$131,000 in 1933. Nevertheless a larger program of activities has been carried on and a greater number of people served than in any previous year.

City Planning in Germany—In September, 1933, the German Reich passed a law regulating the development of residential areas, particularly in the unbuilt open areas surrounding the towns. The new law gives state authorities power to designate as residential areas districts in which houses are to be built or where it is believed they should be built, if it is thought that the interest of the public or the welfare of the residents would be injured if there were no appropriate regulations. For these residential areas a site plan must be prepared. If such a plan is established by the town authorities a subdivider must meet the following requirements: He must give the community up to twenty-five percent of his land in the case of a single family development and up to thirty-five percent in the case of an apartment house development, for public roads, squares, recreational facilities or any other public needs; he must provide roads, water supply, sewerage, lighting, school buildings and other necessary civic improvements if the authorities so require.

A Winter Sports Conference—Over a hundred winter sports enthusiasts attended the Outdoor Recreation Section of the three-day Recreation Conference held on March 17th at Massachusetts State College. Among the subjects discussed were ski trails, walking, hiking and tramping. Historical walks were advocated and it was urged that interest be aroused in putting signs on historical and other interesting spots in western Massachusetts. It was also suggested that a western Massachusetts Winter Sports Committee be organized to

stimulate communities in this section of the state to develop winter sports facilities.

Ernst Hermann, Superintendent of Recreation, Newton, Massachusetts, called attention to other forms of winter sports, emphasizing the values in figure skating, sledding and tobogganing as family recreations.

The Kellogg Company Makes a Leisure Time Study—The Kellogg Company of Battle Creek, Michigan, has made a study of the use of leisure by 133 men and women employed in the production department. It shows that 84 per cent of men and 68 per cent of women devote more time to reading. Newspapers headed the list. Many were found spending their time in the garden and at sports, while some would just "sit and rest." Eighty per cent of the women now devote more time to beautifying their homes and doing housework; at the same time an equal number of men prefer puttering about the house, fixing and mending things, and growing flowers. Each worker was asked what he would like most to do with leisure hours. The replies varied from "contented as is" to "flying." One would like to study pipe organs and another raise chickens. The replies were grouped in the following broad classifications:

Activity	Women	Men
Study	22	18
Sports	14	32
Work at home	13	8
Entertainments	11	2
Earn money	3	8
Gardening	10
Travel	2	11
Miscellaneous	3	3

Tennis in Los Angeles—Thousands of residents of Los Angeles are enjoying tennis at night on lighted courts provided by the city. So great has been the interest in night playing that the Playground and Recreation Department has found it necessary to equip nearly forty playground courts with overhead lighting systems during the past three years. Operation of these centers is being carried on without additional expense to taxpayers through the use of a coin meter system by which players pay a small fee to cover the cost of the electric current used. During the daylight hours the same courts may be used free of charge in the same way as all other tennis facilities of the Department.

The value of Playground Apparatus

Playground apparatus brings to the child **SAFE** opportunities for daring, which is so much a part of childhood's training. The desire to swing higher, to slide more quickly, to chin one's self more often, to see-saw faster, is childhood's preparation of the courage to dare, to do, to excel, which is so essential to success in adult life. Playground apparatus, a typically American development, is creating a race of vigorous, healthful, courageous citizens, who will make and keep "their place in the Sun."

Playground Apparatus brings to the strong his opportunity "to shoulder the pig trough"; to the weak it brings a sense of equality (it prohibits an inferiority complex). It trains strength so it is coordinated with mind. It strengthens weakness so health results.

It is of equal importance, however, to stress the health value of exercise as it is supplied by playground apparatus. It brings to the growing child the opportunity for a variety of exercise totally different from the usual, natural motions of the body in walking, running or working. The child learns to handle himself in difficult positions and little-used muscles receive health-creating development.

No one denies that children get exercise around their homes, walking to school, and running in games. If working, walking, running exercise was the only kind, of value to life, there would be but little playground apparatus made and sold. But, after exhaustion from work, the work of play—refreshes!

The spirit, too, receives renewing as it finds "new worlds to conquer!" Playground apparatus brings to the vivid imagination of the child another outlet and direction which develops and enriches this God-given attribute!

Every child needs these qualities and opportunities in the same full measure as do the children of any community.

The wide variety of functions of the wide variety of playground outfits, found in the EverWear line, bring to every child, regardless of his need, just the sort of recreational and health-giving opportunities he should have—

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Magazines and Pamphlets

{ Recently Received Containing Articles
of Interest to the Recreation Worker }

MAGAZINES

- Mind and Body*, March 1934
Awards? by Thomas A. Campbell and Trevelyn A. James
National Recreation, by James Edward Rogers
- Parks and Recreation*, March 1934
The Guiding Motives in the Design of a Modern Park, by Edward Clark Whiting
The Problem of Our Country's Forests, by Phelps Wyman
A Nature Sanctuary, by Hugh S. Davis
Extensive Civil Works Program in New Jersey Interstate Park
- Parks and Recreation*, April 1934
Electric Fountains, by R. J. Swackhamer
The CWA in Fort Worth and the Effect of Wise Planning, by R. C. Morrison
The Problem of Our Country's Forests, by Phelps Wyman
Cities of Southwest Enthuse Over Diamond Ball, by Ronald Capps
A CWA Recreation Project in St. Louis, by Alfred Fleishman
Chicago Zoological Park to Open This Summer
New Zoos for New York
- The Journal of Health and Physical Education*, April 1934
Educational Possibilities of the Dance, by Mary Wood Hinman
Decreasing Juvenile Delinquency, by R. B. Grunewald
Gymnasium Hockey or "Shinney"
Report of the Recreational Director of the New York House of Refuge
Alley Soccer
Basket Run
- Journal of Adult Education*, April 1934
Depression's Drama, by Eve Chappell
- The Library Journal*, April 1934
Education for Leisure, by Clarence E. Sherman
- The Nation's Schools*, April 1934
Shall Control of Athletic Sports Be Placed in Pupils' Hands? by C. D. Giauque
Adelphi Academy Prepares Pupils for Leisure Time
- The Journal of Educational Sociology*, April 1934
Leisure-Time Social Backgrounds in a Suburban Community, by John F. Fox
Block Recreation Project, by Frank Kaplan
The Penny Game Room, by Abraham Goldfeld
- The Record of the Girls' Friendly Society*, April 1934
Let's Hike, by Estelle Burrill
- Safety Education*, May 1934
It's Safer on the Playground, by George D. Butler
Playgrounds and Safety, by H. Louise Cottrell

PAMPHLETS

- Rhode Island Independence Day*
Rhode Island Arbor Day
The Commissioner of Education, State of Rhode Island
- Juvenile Delinquency—Selected Bibliography of Recent Material*
Bulletin Number 122, Russell Sage Foundation Library. \$.10.

Year-Round Programs Initiated—With the appointment of Mrs. R. L. Currier, formerly Superintendent of Recreation at Lynchburg, Virginia, as Director of Recreation in Charlottesville, Virginia, the city has initiated an active program. An outstanding event was the festival of Negro spirituals directed by George L. Johnson of the National Recreation Association with a chorus of 200 voices. Other activities have included basketball leagues with twelve teams of men, twenty-one teams in two boys' leagues, and five teams of women, and weekly square dances for the unemployed in the city armory.

The Board of Aldermen of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, has created by special ordinance a Public Recreation Commission.

Free Golf Instruction—A recent service of the Union County, N. J., Park Commission was free golf instruction given for two weeks by the Commission's golf professional for the purpose of creating greater interest in the game. Through this arrangement, any resident of the county who is having difficulty with his game or who has never played golf received a course of three 45-minute lessons without charge.

Activities in Louisville—The Louisville, Kentucky, Division of Recreation, in spite of its reduced budget conducted an active winter program. Ten junior and senior high schools, three buildings owned by the Board of Park Commissioners and an abandoned school building loaned by the Board of Education, were used during the winter as evening community centers. Twenty men's and five girls' leagues in basketball, embracing approximately 175 teams, played a regular schedule each week. There were also volley ball leagues for industrial girls and for men. Eight women's gymnasium classes and seven tap dancing classes with an enrollment of 1,600 adult women meet weekly in every section of the city. Because of limited facilities it was necessary to concentrate the evening program on adult activities and confine children's classes to the full time centers and Saturday morning dancing classes in three junior high school buildings. Fifteen hundred children from three to sixteen years of age received free dancing lessons each week.

Leisure and Poetry—Poetry is responsible to a great extent for the impetus which has

initiated the Girls' Club News Reel, the result of a newspaper club started in January, 1934 in Worcester, Massachusetts. Members are under-privileged girls from fifteen to seventeen years of age who contribute original stories for the monthly newspaper of the Girls' Club. The girls are finding poetry more interesting than prose, and many worthwhile verses are the result.

Centers for Unemployed in Toledo—The Division of Recreation of Toledo, Ohio, during the past winter has operated two centers for the unemployed. One is in a large building with auditorium and smaller rooms formerly used as a music conservatory, where activities are largely dramatic, including the making of scenery and costumes. Repairs to the building were made through C.W.A.; the Division of Recreation is supplying light, heat and janitor service. Thirteen leaders were furnished by C. W. A. The second center is a former medical school building. Here gymnasium classes, boxing, wrestling, tap dancing and other activities make up the program. A number of C.W. A. workers are providing leadership.

Recreational Leadership—The Westbrook Junior College in Portland, Maine, has initiated a two year course in recreational leadership "to direct and develop the interests of girls who desire to become leaders in the field of recreation." Courses are offered in English, community life, arts and crafts, camping, recreational activities, nature study, physical education, music, dramatics, hygiene, and first aid.

Swimming Their Way to Health—Learning to swim in a swimming pool has given back their "land legs" to three Louisville children, victims of infantile paralysis, and several others are gradually regaining the use of their limbs. At the advice of their physicians the children entered the free swimming classes conducted by the Louisville, Kentucky, Division of Recreation, where they are given special instruction. The classes are conducted in conjunction with a mothers' class so that the mothers of the children can learn to swim at the same time. Transporting the children to the park pool has not always been easy, but with the cooperation of interested club women and the use of the police patrol the problem is being met.



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Detroit's Annual Demonstration — The women's twelfth annual demonstration of the Detroit, Michigan, Department of Recreation, held in April, took the character of a pageant as the Spirit of the Present Summoned Recreation and her attendants to demonstrate for other women the recreational activities sponsored by the Department of Recreation during 1933 and 1934. Fifteen hundred women took part in the program of mass calisthenics and dancing.

Increased Attendance At Museum—The annual report of the Cleveland, Ohio, Museum of Art shows the increasing service of that institution to the community. An attendance of 400,468 at the museum last year broke all previous records. Regular class work for school children and adults increased during the year. New classes and clubs were formed, and adult work has developed both in the museum and through co-operation with various departments of Western Reserve University and other institutions. These activities, together with a great variety of other work carried on at the museum, have

made that institution one of the most vital and human organizations of the city.

Dancing Instruction in Los Angeles—Dancing instruction was stressed on the program of the Los Angeles, California, Department of Playground and Recreation, when on April 3rd playground directors started on a twelve week course of training under expert leadership. The first three weekly sessions covered natural dancing and character and dramatic dance games for young children. Folk dancing, English country, Morris, stick and sword dances are also included in the course, as well as rhythmic gymnastics.

When You Plan Your Summer Program

(Continued from page 129)

show, and an entertainment by a group from Jackson State Prison. At all except the last mentioned, for which a charge was made, collections were taken. Soft drinks and ice cream were sold to swell the fund. About \$400 was raised and with these funds four workers were employed to supervise four playgrounds afternoons and evenings for eight weeks.

Facilities. While outdoor facilities are the main concern in the summer program, it is interesting to note a few of the developments in indoor centers which are helping to make the playground program more effective.

The dads' clubs connected with the playgrounds of Alton, Illinois, have built attractive little community houses on two of the playgrounds. There are no mothers' clubs in connection with the playgrounds but the women help the men, especially in money raising affairs. In Scranton, Pennsylvania, a project is under way to equip the second floors in two fire stations and one police station as community centers. Each floor has two rooms which can be thrown into one making a large room 35' by 80'. A check room, a small kitchen and lavatories are being added. C.W.A. workers are being used on the project.

Sioux City, Iowa, has a community center built at a cost of about \$1,200 with C.W.A. labor, from material from ten old buildings. As a result, the building has some beautiful windows, French doors and lighting fixtures, all from old mansions, which add greatly to the attractiveness of the building.

Leadership

So fundamental is this question and so interesting were the ways in which the problem was met in a number of communities that a separate article has been devoted to this subject. (See page 131.)

An Important Need and Opportunity

(Continued from page 130)

the desires existing among the high school graduates should be presented at the meeting, and a discussion be held of what might be done about them.

5. The very definite question as to the graduates might well lead to a friendly discussion of the whole field of leisure-time music in the city, as it is and as it might be. And this discussion, based on a clearly expressed intention to determine how the greatest musical good can come to the greatest number of people in the community, could lead to the formation of a civic music committee out of whose cooperative planning and action one or more festivals and other large or small group musical activities might be brought about or enhanced, making for increased happiness and social well-being among all sorts and ages of people in the community.

Whatever else is done, the recreation leader will probably be doing a good service by conferring with the school music supervisor, who is likely to be too busily confined to his school work to have gained the community point of view and the knowledge of leisure-time needs and of means of organizing for them that the recreation leader has.

That Ever Present Problem—Leadership

(Continued from page 132)

Local Organizations to the Rescue

In all parts of the country Parent-Teacher Associations helped to make playgrounds possible in 1933. In Denver, the association appointed a number of playground committees representing various communities and members of the committees visited the playgrounds at intervals. Their visits stimulated a general community feeling about the playground and in many cases the ground became a community gathering place, a number of Parent Teacher Association meetings being held there.

Parent Teacher Associations also helped in Flint, Michigan, by paying something toward the services of directors in a number of school playgrounds. For the most part leadership was supplied by forty volunteers, mostly high school boys and girls with men from the Parent Teacher Associations in charge in the evenings. These volunteers worked regularly. The director of physical education, paid a small sum during the summer by the Board of Education, held weekly meetings with the volunteers and kept track of their activities. About three hundred junior high school boys were given a week's outing and training by the Boy Scouts and were used on traffic control around the playgrounds. Band concerts were given by high school groups conducted by directors from the school music department who served as volunteers.

The Park Department, through its Division of Recreation in the summer conducted twelve playgrounds with nineteen directors paid a small weekly sum. The playgrounds were operated fourteen weeks for four of which the playground directors volunteered their services.

Last summer the Kiwanians of Sunbury, Pennsylvania, sponsored a playground which proved a great asset for three hundred children of the community. A plot of ground 150 by 300 feet in a residential section of the city was graded, an administration building was erected, and equipment was installed. A nearby grove was put into condition so that the children might have the shelter of the trees on hot days. The Kiwanians provided a director and paid regular visits to the center, playing with the children whenever opportunity offered.

A Word of Warning

Volunteer leaders have helped to save the situation in many communities but unless these leaders receive some training and are under the direction of trained workers their usefulness will be greatly curtailed and there is serious question whether their service is an asset or a liability. One city last summer tried the plan on a number of playgrounds of using as directors relief workers without the guidance of any trained play leaders. The plan involved having two persons on each playground, changing workers every day in the week. In general these workers showed little ability, energy or initiative. Attendance was small

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and equipment was stolen. There was no continuity of rules or plans and the results proved conclusively the necessity of having trained leadership to supervise the work of untrained people.

In a southern city because of lack of funds it became necessary to close the playgrounds on July 10th. The playgrounds were reopened again on July 17th under the leadership of untrained relief workers. During the five weeks period in which this plan was in operation the attendance dropped about one-third.

In such instances the difficulty lies not so much in the personality and ability of the workers as in the failure of those in charge to realize the vital importance of training and guidance.

Volunteer Recreation Leadership

(Continued from page 137)

The experienced playground director, in recognizing the merits of the volunteer plan and in adopting some of its features for his own use, will be aware of the dangers that accompany it. There is the chance that the public will mistake volunteer leadership as a satisfactory substitution

for salaried service and this misconception must be guarded against. The director will also realize that volunteer helpers need continued follow-up appeal or their interest will wane. He will learn to expect no help or little help from volunteers in discipline problems, care of equipment or use of equipment. Special care must be taken in regard to the safety of children who are taken away from the playground on special educational or outing trips.

Despite these difficulties, it must be said in all fairness that the volunteer leadership plan has given unexpected stimulation to playground support during the present crucial years and has yielded valuable newspaper support of a most helpful nature. It has given new vigor and emphasis to certain educational features of the recreational program. The trained directors have become more administrative-minded and have made valuable contacts in coordinating the service rendered both by adult volunteers and by junior volunteers on the playground. The director has thus become a leader in training leadership. For these many reasons the volunteer supplementary program does not appear to be a temporary recourse, but rather a permanent and desirable aspect of community recreation organization.

Seeing Nature in Glacier National Park

(Continued from page 140)

spent in the West. With flowers, birds and mammals all about, interest is not hard to arouse.

But may children be brought to Glacier Park and kept there for weeks or months? To this question the answer is yes: better than in some more popular spots. Chalets lack the distractions of hotels; housekeeping cabins are beginning to appear. Camp grounds are spacious and clean, with showers and laundries to care for personal cleanliness. A good wall or umbrella tent makes an adequate summer home, while stores are not too distant to provide fresh and properly balanced foods. Yet surroundings are those of a national park, not the crowded, shabby array that often forms the summer village.

In such spots families may camp, enjoying the full values of mountains. Does some trail seem rarely worth while? Then they travel it as often as they wish, enjoying plants, animals and scenes. Do clouds threaten one's trip today? Then put it off till the sky is bright, whether that is to-

morrow or next week. Meanwhile, birds and insects may be watched, or stories exchanged with neighbors from Montana, California or the East.

For the camp is a friendly, restful place where formalities rarely intrude. Yonder a worn umbrella tent stands—the home of a white-haired, crippled grandmother who lives in a village on the plains. Each summer she demands two weeks in the Park, to which her husband always objects. “But they do him as much good as they do me, even if he doesn’t admit it. Just wait till he sits down to a meal cooked on this honest-to-goodness fire. Harry, quit fussing with your hooks, and roll these logs closer together!”

On her left, two geologists are camped for their third or fourth season in Glacier. They are busy with notes and diagrams, while a neighbor discusses photography. An eastern professor and his wife hang their laundry from branches of limber pine, chatting with a weather-beaten Texan who is making a collapsible stove. A naturalist shows two butterflies to a group of eager, brown-skinned children, while a solemn fellow puffs a meerschaum pipe and murmurs *Wie wunderschön!*

The camp ground a summer home? It’s a place to live, to feel, to learn—to recreate, in the fullest sense, values lost by urban haste.

Like Spring—It’s in the Air!

(Continued from page 143)

In another far-away garden, there is,

“Here stand I,
forever lonely
Amidst the flowers tall
While o’er my figured bosom
Faint shadows slowly fall.
And to the busy world without
Whose life by hours I keep;
I say, ‘Tis time to rise,’
And then, ‘Tis time to sleep.’”

And so the great gift of a fuller life lies invitingly on the doorstep. The wise will accept this gift, for the simplicity of an ordered and rich life is not an inheritance; it is an achievement.

The Dawn of a New Era for Tennis

(Continued from page 148)

son combinations in the mixed doubles. Many of the players appeared in three divisions. Owing to the short time we had to complete the tournament it was necessary for many to play from three to five matches a day. It was a case of the survival of the fittest.

During the week of constant play it was noticed that many spectators would come to the

courts about 10:00 o’clock with their lunches, would find a good seat overlooking several courts and would stay there for several hours. A number of war veterans came in their wheel chairs and one of the committee members made a point of looking after these men.

At the end of the tournament ten champions were crowned. Mrs. Jonathan Rogers, wife of the chairman of the Board, presented the awards at the finals which were attended by over 2,000 people. Among other prominent citizens His Lordship, the Mayor, was present, one of the most interested spectators.

After the games were over a spectator commenting on them said: “I may have seen better tennis but I have never seen such a demonstration of fair play as was shown during this competition!”

How to Produce a Play

(Continued from page 152)

across the stage, and is bent into the same half circle as the cyclorama. It is painted a pale green if a grass horizon is desired, yellow if the desert, or mountains may be painted on in pale violet. This is placed upon the stage floor a few feet in front of the cyclorama.

Trees, fences, pillars, stumps, bushes and corners of buildings are carved out of building board, painted, and placed upon the stage in front of the horizon. They are easily made, and with a good cyclorama and a number of these “cut outs” a great variety of settings is possible. The settings made in this fashion are more plastic, more mobile, and much more attractive than painted scenery. It also allows for very effective lighting.

Furniture and other physical accessories upon the stage must be selected carefully. For historical plays, fantasies and suggestive settings, old furniture may be changed by the use of carved compo board and paint. Carvings may be modeled on with plastic wood or paper mache and painted.

The scenic artist is warned to work in close co-operation with the lighting artist, the costume artist and the property man. The whole effect must be one of harmonious unity.

A good setting is as important to a scene as is the background to a painting. The scenic artist and his assistants have as great an opportunity for artistic expression as any other part of the producing group, and once started on the right road will take joy and satisfaction in creating artistic and effective stage settings.

Service Helps

The American Playground Device Company of Anderson, Indiana, has issued a new catalogue describing among other pieces of apparatus the Castle Tower, a new design. Kansas City, Missouri, has installed 78 such towers on the public school playgrounds.

Information on shuffle board for both indoors and out-of-doors is given in a leaflet issued by the H. G. Cress Company, Box NR-53, Troy, Ohio, which will soon issue information regarding a new game.

The Diamond Calk Horseshoe Company, 4610 Grand Avenue, Duluth, Minnesota, has issued a booklet giving the official rules of horseshoe pitching and general information on promoting horseshoe clubs. It may be secured on request.

In Everwear's Playground Apparatus Catalogue (24) the safety features of the various pieces of apparatus and their durability are emphasized. The catalogue may be secured from the Everwear Manufacturing Company, Springfield, Ohio. "Beauty and playability," states the report, "may be taken for granted in Everwear."

The Indera Mills Company will be glad to send the Indera Figurfit 1934 swim suit catalogue to all who request it by writing the Indera Mills Company, general offices and mills at Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

From the Mitchell Manufacturing Company, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, which has been manufacturing various kinds of apparatus for a period exceeding thirty-four years, Catalogue #20 is available giving full information regarding Mitchell "Betterbilt" line of playground apparatus.

The Paddle Tennis Company, Inc., 285 Madison Avenue, New York City, has issued a folder setting forth the advantages of paddle tennis. The prices of individual items and complete sets are given in this folder, which also includes official rules for the game and suggestions on laying out a court. This pamphlet may be secured on request.

The School of Education, Pennsylvania State College, State College, Pennsylvania, describes in its summer session bulletin the courses given in the field of physical and health education. A circular devoted exclusively to the health and physical education program will soon be available.

Catalogue #204 describes the Pepperell Yarns and Handicraft especially prepared for school, playground and summer camp activities. It may be secured from the Pepperell Braiding Company, East Pepperell, Massachusetts.

The J. E. Porter Corporation, Ottawa, Illinois, manufacturers of Loudon Playground Equipment, has issued a catalogue telling in detail of its equipment. The Corporation, which last year equipped the Enchanted Island playgrounds at the Chicago Century of Progress, is manufacturing the Junglegym in four sizes on an exclusive basis.

From G. Schirmer (Inc.), 3 East 43rd Street, New York City, may be secured leaflets announcing a number of publications of interest to recreation workers, such as the "Botsford Collection of Folk Songs," "Come and Caper" (creative rhythms, pantomimes and plays with music), and "Folk-Songs of the Four Seasons."

Edward Schuberth and Company, 11 East 22nd Street, New York City, publishes vocal and instrumental music of interest to recreation workers. A catalogue entitled "Selected Songs and Ballads" lists a notable collection, many of them old English songs. Write for complete Thematic catalogue.

"Road Service Stabilization," published by the Solvay Technical and Engineering Service, Solvay Sales Corporation, 61 Broadway, New York City, describes materials and methods for construction and maintenance of low cost stabilized roads. The Corporation will be glad to give advice on the use of calcium chloride.

Charles A. Toebe Leather Company, 149 North Third Street, Philadelphia, has issued a catalogue, "Toebe Artistic Leathercraft," which contains a wealth of information for those interested in this craft.

The C. B. Webb Company, 200 Fifth Avenue, New York City, distributes the Weaver Scholastic Ball known as "the ball with the fool-proof valve." This ball is adapted for use in schools, camps, playgrounds, gymnasiums, and in water sports.

Church Music and the New Leisure

By Augustus D. Zanzig

A PAMPHLET stressing the importance of congregational singing and suggesting ways of making music the church's most potent means of arousing and sustaining the religious attitude. Helpful source material is given.

Price \$.10

NATIONAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION
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New Books in the Leisure Time Field

The American Costume Book

By Frances H. Haire. A. S. Barnes & Company, New York. \$5.00.

MISS HAIRE, author of *The Folk Costume Book*, has given us in this book an illustrated volume showing the dress of the original American, the Indian, as well as the dress of the early Colonists of the Eastern Seaboard. The author, through careful and extended research, especially on the Indian costumes, has cleared up some of the inaccuracies surrounding the dress of the Red Man in various sections of the United States divided for the purpose into four zones—the Plains Indian, the Forest Indian, the Desert Indian and the Everglades Indian. We have, too, the Indian Scout, the Homesteader and the Cowboy. The descriptions of the various dress characteristics are so carefully worked out that they will be readily usable. Not the least interesting feature of the book is the brief but illuminating background which Miss Haire gives us for each of the periods she describes.

"Songs of Stardom"

By James Hudson and Edward Spicer. Aetna Publishing Company, 516 Fifth Avenue, New York. Copies obtainable from Dr. Bertha Chapman Cody, 570 Lexington Avenue, New York City. \$.50.

IT IS SAID THAT "in the beginning the stars sang together." This book sets to singing a great deal of information about the stars. It makes the gathering and memory of that information easy and delightful. There are songs of the planets and of the size of the planets, of the constellations and of the "stars that shine over Bethlehem" (on Christmas night). The "Signs of the Zodiac" tells where to locate the constellations of the zodiac; the "Song of the First Magnitude Stars" makes it possible to learn these with their often difficult names in a few minutes; and the other songs do similar feats. The tunes are on the whole very delightful and the words have a rhythm and lyrical quality that make it possible really to sing them. There are many drawings to help in exploring the sky.—A. D. Zansig.

The Summoning of the Nations

By Elisabeth Woodbridge Morris. With "Hymn for the Nations" by Josephine Daskam Bacon. Samuel French, Inc., New York. \$.35.

THIS SHORT PAGEANT of the changing world written by Mrs. Morris under the auspices of the League of Nations Association, Incorporated, interprets in brief, vivid phrases the finer spirit of each nation of the earth. It has been constructed in such a way as to offer the widest possible range in its presentation from a simple reading by a single person to an elaborate pageant using hundreds of people in full national costume with national choruses. The lines are admirably suited for recitation,

and are especially well adapted for use in schools. "In view of the present world emergency," writes Charles Rann Kennedy, "it should be put on at once in every church, school, club, and public playground throughout the land."

Swimming Pool Data and Reference Annual

Hoffman-Harris, Inc., 114 East 32nd Street, New York. \$2.00.

MUCH MATERIAL of interest and practical help to recreation workers, physical educators and swimming pool officials is to be found in the 1934 Annual which contains the Joint Committee Report on bathing areas, their construction and sanitation, general information on the administration and operation of pools, water sports and games, the converting of pools into ice skating rinks, and many other allied subjects.

A Study of Girls' Athletic Associations in the Secondary School

Prepared by the Committee of the Boston Group of the Women's Division, N.A.A.F. Distributed by Women's Division, N.A.A.F., 303 West 42nd Street, New York. \$.25.

THIS UNIQUE STUDY is a distinct contribution to the literature dealing with secondary schools. It contains a model constitution for a GAA, a very comprehensive point system based on physical education class work, voluntary participation in activities outside of class time, service, leadership, health and awards, the latter being divided into two classes—group and individual awards.

Leisure-Time Interests and Activities of Business Girls

By Dr. Janet Fowler Nelson. Womans Press, New York. \$.75.

THIS STUDY, made possible by a grant from the American Association for Adult Education to the National Board of the Y. W. C. A.'s, is based on data secured through a questionnaire and through diary records of approximately 1,000 business girls and young women ranging in age from seventeen to thirty-eight years earning from \$10 to \$50 a week. The questions kept in mind throughout the study were: "With what are the leisure hours concerned?" "What are the major interests?" "What are the major activities?" and "What is the relation of interest to activity?" Many tables are given and a careful and detailed analysis is made of the findings. The study will be of keen interest to recreation workers.

**A Recreation and Sports Handbook for
Playground, School, Community and Camp.**

By Ferd J. Lipovetz. Burgess Publishing Company, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

This book, which is published in mimeographed form, has been prepared to fill the needs of the new course, "Playground, School, Community and Camp Recreation," which is being given at LaCrosse State Teachers College. The material is grouped under four general sections: I, General Theory and Practice; II, Summer Playgrounds; III, Camp Recreation; IV, Community Recreation. It is illustrated with sketches, graphs and charts. While the compilation as a whole may be secured for \$3.85, separate sections may be purchased at the following prices: Sections I and II, \$2.30; I and III, \$1.50; I and IV, \$2.15.

An Introduction to Physical Education.

By Eugene W. Nixon, M.A. and Frederick W. Cozens, Ph.D. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia. \$2.50.

The new conception of physical education is outlined in this book, and the steps are described through which physical education has won its place as an integral part of all education. The volume is divided into three parts—Philosophy and Principles of Physical Education, Significant Problems in Physical Education, and Professional Outlook in Physical Education. A chapter on Physical Education and Leisure Time stresses the importance of training for leisure by schools and the teaching of activities which have carry-over value.

More Fun in Bed.

Edited by Frank Scully. Simon & Schuster, Inc., New York. \$2.00.

A number of well known humorists and writers have contributed to this book which contains a great number and variety of humorous tales, sketches, anecdotes and bits of wisdom or foolery. Among the book's features is a "play pen" in which the convalescent will find a great many games and puzzles and suggestions at which he can work with the pencil attached to the cover of the book. One need not be ill to enjoy this book, which like its predecessor, *Fun in Bed*, is proving very popular.

German Youth in a Changing World.

Terramare Office, Kronenstrasse 1, Berlin W 8, Germany.

This attractive booklet represents a compilation of brief articles on various phases of the life of the youth of Germany. It traces the development of the youth movement and discusses such subjects as Leadership of German Youth, Youth Hostels, Youth in Labor Service and Hitler Youth. There is also some information regarding the Olympic Games to be held in Berlin in 1936. The booklet contains unusually beautiful illustrations.

Hand Craft Projects.

By Frank I. Solar. The Bruce Publishing Company, Milwaukee. \$1.25.

This, the third in the handcraft project series, contains directions for making about seventy-five articles, some of them toys, many of them useful articles such as a window cold box or a shoe-polishing stand. Each project is accompanied by diagrams. There is an opening chapter on the home workshop which has many interesting and practical suggestions to offer.

Fun With Dry Batteries.

National Carbon Co., Inc., New York. \$10.

This book should prove very appealing to boys to the great majority of whom electricity and its uses are a fascinating subject. The booklet first explains in simple language some of the principles of electricity and how a

dry cell works. It then gives directions for making electro-magnets, binding-posts and connectors, switches, for installing bells, buzzers, closet lights and electric locks, and for making electric toys. And what could be more attractive to a boy than to delve into the mysteries of signalling and electro-plating?

A Handbook of Social Programs

For High School Teachers.

By G. Turner Hicks, Ph.D. Murray State Teachers College, Murray, Kentucky. \$1.25.

In this interesting compilation of social programs the author has set some very definite objectives for high school social evenings and parties, has analyzed the values which come out of them and for which all leaders should strive, and has presented a practical application of these values in this collection of special day parties, social programs, stunts, charades, jokes and miscellaneous suggestions. Recreation workers will find this book helpful in planning their social recreation programs.

A Community Serves Its Youth.

By Frank W. Herriott, Ph.D. Available from Association Press, New York. \$2.00.

Here is a case study of the scope and relationship of agencies dealing with high school students in Montclair, New Jersey, a suburban community of about 42,000 people. It carefully considers existing programs and their adequacy, the needs of adolescents, the extent to which the needs are met, and the contributions made by the churches and other groups. In conclusion, it brings to bear its findings on the problem of coordinating the efforts to provide for the free time of adolescents and suggests that for Montclair the experiment be attempted of making the Group Work Division of the Council of Social Agencies, which includes the character-building agencies, the coordinating group.

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